

Home loans cheaper

by 1% but inflation again rises

Building societies yesterday agreed to reduce their mortgage interest rate to 11.25 per cent, a one percentage point cut that will knock £7.30 a month off the gross payments on a £10,000 mortgage. And there was an indication that there could be a further reduction later in the year.

However, the cost of living is still rising, with the March retail price index showing a 1 per cent surge to 16.7 per cent above its level a year earlier. The underlying rate, based on six-month figures, is now 18.7 per cent, the highest since October 1975.

Further mortgage cut hinted

By Margaret Stone
The widely expected one point drop in the mortgage interest rate to 11.25 per cent was announced yesterday by Mr Raymond Potter, chairman of the Building Societies Association, who also hinted at a further rate change later in the year.

The new mortgage interest rate takes place immediately for new borrowers and from May 1 for existing homebuyers. The effect of the change from the present rate of 12 per cent will be to knock £7.30 a month off the gross repayments on a £10,000 mortgage.

Investors' rates will also be reduced on May 1 and come down from 7.8 per cent to 7 per cent. This is equivalent to 10.77 per cent gross assuming a basic rate of tax of 35 per cent or 10.45 per cent if the tax rate comes down to 33 per cent.

Uncertainty about the outcome of the pay policy talks and the future level of taxation hampered the association in reaching its decision. Both hawks and doves on the council had their say before the

rate level was finally agreed. There was, however, no doubt in anyone's mind that rates would come down.

Mr Potter denied yesterday that the Government had put pressure on the building societies despite recent statements from Mr Healey about looking forward to a rate reduction. But already some Labour MPs are complaining that the reduction is insufficient.

It does seem likely, however, that rates could be reduced by as much as half a point later in the year. Much depends on the flow of funds into the societies, a successful outcome to the pay policy negotiations, and the trend of interest rates in general.

Yesterday's further small cut in MPR (announced after its decision) is a pointer in the right direction. Now at 9 per cent compared with 15 per cent when the mortgage rate was raised to 12.25 per cent last year, there is a strong possibility that the banks will reduce their base rates and hence their deposit rates still further.

The new investment rate of 7 per cent, tax paid, is still extremely attractive compared with the present bank deposit rate of 5 per cent and will become increasingly so if the deposit rate falls further. However, as Mr Potter pointed out, other forms of saving, notably the investment accounts in the National Savings Bank, are still around 10 per cent.

As expected the net inflow of funds in March was disappointing at £202m, virtually the same as in February, but the outlook for April is much more cheerful with net receipts in the region of £280m predicted. A regular monthly inflow of £280m-£300m for the rest of the year is now hoped for.

The association is cautiously revising its lending target for 1977. It had hoped to equal at least the £6,000 lent during 1976. This target took a sharp setback earlier but now appears to have been reinstated. Already March commitments are back to 1976 levels at £508m.

Minimum lending rate cut, page 15

Prices index climbs to 16.7%

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Just as the Government feared, inflation is now accelerating again at the very moment the Chancellor is trying to persuade business to accept another round of pay restraint. The retail price index in March rose 1 per cent to stand 16.7 per cent above its level a year earlier.

The underlying rate of inflation, which is best measured by looking at how prices have moved in the past six months and excluding some seasonal items, is now at 18.7 per cent, its highest since October, 1975.

Nor can the Government expect much good news in the next few months, during which the crucial negotiations with the unions will be taking place, since Mr Healey's Budget is expected to push up prices this month as extra taxes on petrol and cigarettes are collected.

March's rise was not in itself particularly dramatic, but it does confirm the general impression last month that February's drop in the pace of

inflation was almost certainly a statistical freak.

The statistics confirm the popular impression that almost everything went up in the month. In mid-March, with only tobacco and seasonal foods excepted, alcohol and meals out went up particularly sharply, as did clothing and footwear.

A comparison of this year's figures with last year show the extreme difficulty of the Government's task in setting a new round of pay restraint. During the first half of 1976, the underlying inflation rate was around 13 per cent with a tendency to fall and wage increases were nearly 14 per cent.

This year the underlying rate of inflation is nearly 19 per cent, and rising. Even if the 16.7 per cent increase figure is used as a measure of inflation over the past 12 months, this compares unfavourably with an increase in average earnings of 11.8 per cent. This year the most of the anti-inflationary policy is felt towards another round of pay policy.

The Government will have to try to persuade union leaders, and even more importantly, union members, that the inflation rate is so high because of the collapse in the value of the pound last year, that if a new round of pay policy can be agreed there will be no repetition of that collapse this year but that a new wage explosion would do double damage to any hopes of bringing price rises down.

Nor only would it increase domestic costs, the Government could argue, but a new financial panic could bring about a repetition of last year's inflationary impetus.

Although it is reconciled to a further bad period during the spring, the Government still believe that by the end of the year inflation could be coming down quite sharply and will be 13 per cent in the 12 months to December.

By the second quarter of next year it is hoped that the rate could at last be down to single figures.

Table, page 15

Birmingham

A substantial reduction in the labour force at British Leyland's Longbridge factory in Birmingham, accompanied by a one third cutback in production of the new £200m Mini development, is one of the proposals the company is studying in the Government-enforced re-appraisal of its operations.

Sources within the area reported last night that up to a fifth of the 19,000 manual workers at Longbridge could lose their jobs if the National Enterprise Board (NEB) and Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, accepted the proposal as an alternative to dropping the Mini project altogether.

Present plans call for a few

17,000 in 1980, 250,000 in 1981

and reaching a peak of 300,000 in 1985. The proposed compromise would reduce all those targets but achieve a maximum of 200,000 well before 1985. As all those figures relate to planned capacity, which is seldom achieved in British car factories, actual output would be even lower.

Longbridge already has, on paper at least, capacity for 500,000 cars a year. The best it has ever done was 450,000 Minis and 1100 models in the late 1960s, when the larger car was at the height of its popularity.

The Allegro, which replaced the 1100, has been a disappointment and that has left Leyland

with considerable spare capacity at Longbridge.

The Allegro's poor sales performance, as much as the need to clear the decks for the new Mini, explains why plans call for production of this model to be switched to the much smaller assembly plant at Senneffe, in Belgium.

Its removal will leave Longbridge heavily overmanned even if Mr Varley decides to take a risk and go for the 300,000 target. It is principally for that reason that Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, faced several confrontations at Longbridge to obtain a full commitment from the labour force for substantially higher productivity and more job mobility.

But the risk factor involved

lower and therefore have a smaller impact on the rest of the group if it runs into trouble.

Last year Leyland produced about 160,000 Minis, half of which went to overseas markets, mainly Europe. It seems likely that with that continuing support for an 18-year-old model Leyland should be able to sell up to 200,000 new Minis without too much trouble.

However, opponents of the compromise and there are many within the company, including Mr Whitaker and Mr Alex Fawcett, the chief executive, suggest that it would inevitably lead to reduced profit margins.

"If we lower our sights on the new Mini we shall be building an import stopper that may

do nothing for our profitability", was how one Leyland manager put it.

A Leyland Cars statement last night said: "A review of all its current business plans is being conducted by British Leyland. It will go to the NEB when completed later this month. Out of sheer commercial necessity consideration is being given to various alternative strategies."

"We would like to make it clear, however, that Leyland Cars continues to support the original plan for the new Mini project. There is increasing evidence that our employees support the need for this car, that the public wants to buy it and that it will be a contributor of satisfactory profits."



Another royal baby: The Duchess of Gloucester, photographed on a recent visit to Oxford, is expecting her second child in November, the same month as Princess Anne expects her first baby. The Duchess, who had a miscarriage before the birth of her

first child, the Earl of Ulster, who was born prematurely, is "very well" - after July she will cancel all engagements. If the Duchess's baby is a boy he will take the title Baron Cullen. The Danish-born Duchess met her husband while studying in Cambridge.

Dr Owen arrives in Salisbury with 'front-line' backing

From Nicholas Ashford
and Michael Knipe
Salisbury, April 15

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Salisbury from Lusaka tonight having succeeded in gaining the approval of four front-line African presidents for his strategy aimed at achieving a peaceful transfer to majority rule in Rhodesia in 1978.

In particular, he has received assurances that although they will continue to support the Patriotic Front nationalist alliance while the guerrilla war continues, they accept that the other nationalist organizations should participate in any new constitutional talks.

Dr Owen will have a second round of talks tomorrow with Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, who he met in Cape Town on Wednesday. He is expected to elaborate on the discussions he had with the Presidents of Tanzania, Mozambique, Botswana and Zambia.

He will also discuss further his plans to get a series of British-American co-sponsored conferences under way this summer.

Dr Owen is now more optimistic about the prospects of getting negotiations restarted when he began his southern African tour. Before flying to Salisbury he had a two-and-a-half-hour discussion with President Kaunda of Zambia, which he said afterwards had gone very well.

President Kaunda had expressed considerable scepticism about the chance of achieving a peaceful settlement, "but he believed there were possibilities I might succeed".

The President had made it clear that the war should continue while negotiations took place, and he had accepted that had in turn accepted that the fighting should not stop before elections could be held.

According to British sources President Kaunda accepted that all nationalist groups should be represented during the constitutional negotiations, despite his well-known public hostility to Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

He was committed to the holding of elections before independence.

The president was less critical of the alleged breaking of oil sanctions by British and international oil companies than had been expected. He had accepted Dr Owen's explanation that a judicial inquiry had been set up, although he felt that it should have been done earlier.

At a press conference on his arrival here, the Foreign Secretary told Rhodesians that he regarded the main issue in the present negotiations to be "a decision to accept the broad structure of having majority rule in this country as a result of democratic elections at a peaceful transition in 1978".

Continued on page 4, col 3

Steelworks strike to harden

From Trevor Fishlock
Cardiff

The 820 electricians whose unofficial strike has closed the Port Talbot steelworks, in South Wales, voted overwhelmingly yesterday to stay out. Clearly, their determination to win recognition and rewards for skills is hardening. They are now looking for support from fellow electricians, and if they succeed, other steelworks could be threatened with closure.

The electricians' action, which comes after two years of arguing over their status, has made 6,700 steel workers at Port Talbot idle, with the loss of 45,000 tons of steel a week.

To keep the tinplate works at Trostre and at Velindre, in South Wales, in operation, the British Steel Corporation has had to bring in steel from other plants and has had to import 70,000 tons from the Continent.

The strikers' union, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, has condemned their action. Like the management, it thinks that settlement with a particular group of men would upset pay structures at Port Talbot and lead to disruption throughout the steel industry. In any case, the management's view is that settlement of the electricians' claim would breach the pay code.

At a mass meeting in Port Talbot yesterday only a handful of the 450 men present voted against continuing the strike. Mr Wyn Bevan, the strike leader, said afterwards that there would be a meeting with the electricians at the Llanwern steelworks in South Wales next week to seek their support.

Arbitration attempt to end Heathrow strike

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Senior management of British Airways, including Sir Frank MacFarlane, the chairman, were called in by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) yesterday for talks with leaders of the engineering workers' union on the unofficial dispute that had disrupted the airline for 13 days.

Earlier in the day the strikers had defied their union again and rejected a peace plan that was put to them.

After two hours Mr James Mortimer, Acas chairman, left the meeting with Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW), and Mr Reg Birch, AUEW national

officer. No developments were expected for the time being.

The union's authority is being seriously challenged. Officials who had worked out the new peace plan in talks with management were dumbfounded when the men threw it out overboard. In a mass meeting in a cinema at Southall, on Thursday they did the same with another peace formula.

Shop stewards leading the dispute have called a mass meeting for Monday in Southall and there will be meetings over the weekend to try to resolve two points that are preventing agreement.

Mr Birch was booed when he started to urge the men at yesterday's mass meeting to go back to work. "I do not know what the gulf is", he said later.

"The shop stewards decided last night to accept the peace plan and this morning have changed their minds."

Mr Keith Harris, one of the stewards leading the action, said they objected to the proposal in the plan to negotiate an agreement on shift pay improvements through a wages subcommittee. "When talks take place they will be on a tripartite basis", he said. "There will be the management, us and the subcommittee, not just the subcommittee and the management."

The second difficulty was that British Airways wanted shift patterns as well as shift premiums to be negotiated. The stewards wanted only premiums to be discussed for now.

The 250 AUEW stewards at Heathrow will meet on Monday to consider the weekend's moves before reporting to the mass meeting. "It would be wrong to say I am confident that a return to normal working will be recommended on Monday," Mr Harris said.

The airline maintained three fifths of its European flights from Heathrow yesterday because of help from members of other unions, but there were no domestic flights. International services were not affected and a similar pattern is expected today.

TGWU meeting: The Transport and General Workers' Union is to hold a mass meeting of its 35,000 Heathrow members on Monday to discuss the strike. A small staff will be left on duty.

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US-Vietnam talks in Paris soon

Washington, April 15.—The United States and Vietnam will begin discussions in Paris on May 3 on establishing normal relations, the State Department announced today.

Mr Hodding Carter, speaking for the department, said an Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Richard Holbrooke, would lead the United States delegation. Mr Carter said he did not know who would represent Vietnam or how long these first talks would last.

Preparations for the meeting had gone "quite smoothly" and there was "no haggling or disagreement" over the arrangements.

Asked if Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, might join the talks at some time, he said: "I have nothing on that."

Mr Vance will be in Europe in May to meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Geneva and to attend the Nato foreign ministers' conference in London.

The President has said that the United States wants normal diplomatic relations with all countries with which it has no formal ties, including Vietnam. —Reuter.

Spain goes to polls in June

Madrid, April 15.—A general election will take place in Spain on June 15, the Government decided today.

It will be the first democratic general election in the country for more than 40 years. Voters will be choosing members for a new Parliament of two houses to replace the largely appointed Cortes-Agencia France-Press and Reuter.

Pressure from right, page 3

Cardinal Conway

The health of Cardinal Conway, aged 64, Primate of All Ireland, who has been convalescing after a gall bladder operation, was last night said to be giving cause for concern.

North-east England tour for Mr Carter

By David Leigh
Political Staff

President Carter is going to visit the north-east of England when he comes to Britain for the economic summit next month. Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, decided after his trip to America last month that the President would enjoy meeting some "real people".

"I am sure he will enjoy the typical hospitality for which the north-east is world famous," Mr Callaghan said yesterday. The plan is for him to spend four hours on May 6 travelling round by train and then to go to Washington New Town, which apart from being an example of the anti-inflationary policy, is also based on the village from which Washington DC derives its name.

They will visit Newcastle upon Tyne, and then go to Washington New Town, which apart from being an example of the anti-inflationary policy, is also based on the village from which Washington DC derives its name.

Day at White House, page 4, beating inflation, page 15

Voluntary pact to combat inflation in US

Centrepiece of President Carter's devalued and inflation programme, announced yesterday, is the establishment of a framework of consultation between government, business and trade unions, on a voluntary basis, to combat inflation. Page 15

Soldier found killed

The body of an off-duty soldier was found in Londonderry's cemetery last night. A telephone call to the Samaritans said he had been shot by the Provisional IRA. Hunger strike, page 2

Ex-minister's Arts Council clash

Mr Hugh Jenkins, formerly minister responsible for the arts, spoke of his clash with the Arts Council, which he described as "oligarchic", before he was replaced last year. He said Lord Gibson, the council chairman, had been deeply hostile to his proposals. Page 2

Riots in Pakistan

Four people were killed in Lahore, one was killed in Karachi and many more were injured as the Pakistan Opposition turned down a compromise offer from Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, on new elections. Page 4

Helicopter strike

A strike of helicopter pilots disrupted flights from Aberdeen airport to North Sea oilfields. Page 2

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School 'contract'

A formal document, signed by both parties, setting out the mutual responsibilities of schools and parents was suggested by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, as a way of involving the less articulate parent in his children's schooling. Page 3

Thatcher praise

Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, toured Tokyo's Nissan car factory and visited her pleasure on seeing everyone working. "No one was standing around doing nothing", she remarked. Page 4

Police protest

Police protest: Police show that in more than 20 forces a majority of police officers want the right to strike. 3

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HOME NEWS

Mrs Williams calls for more formal parent-school links

From Diana Geddes

A new way of involving parents, particularly the less articulate and poor, in the education of their children was outlined by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday.

Addressing the annual conference of the National Association of Social Workers in Education (formerly the education welfare officers' national association) in Sheffield, she suggested that the mutual responsibilities of parents and schools should be set out in a signed document that should be morally, though not legally, binding on both parties.

The schools should promise to teach the child to the best of the teachers' capacity, to look after him at school, to provide information about the schools' staff and curriculum, and to report on the progress of the child to his parents.

For their part, the parents could be asked to undertake to send the child to school regularly, to ensure he had a fair night's sleep for his age, and to accept that any complaint about his education should be in the first instance, be taken up with the school.

Mrs Williams said that she recognized that some parents would sign such a document and others would not sign. "But I believe it will help parents to see what their role is if we express it in a more formal way than we have at present."

Many parents find it difficult to understand what is going on in the schools, particularly at a time of such rapid educational change. They were confused by endless floods of conflicting advice. A few became actively hostile to schools, especially as their children grew older.

Police warn journalists after attempt to stop van

Police warned journalists manning a picket line in Kettering yesterday that they were risking arrest after an attempt had been made to stop a newspaper delivery van leaving the main gates of the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph building.

The trouble occurred after more than thirty journalists from elsewhere had joined some 50 who were on strike at the newspaper's offices at the News Echo, Wellingborough and the Harborough Mail in a rally outside the Kettering offices.

As the delivery van, loaded with copies of the Evening Telegraph, was driven away from the offices, the picket line of 20 journalists tried to halt it. Others banged on the side of the vehicle and opened the rear doors to remove bundles of papers. The van continued to move forward and reached the road without incident and newspaper bundles were placed under the wheels.

Police arrived soon afterwards and warned the journalists that they could be arrested for obstruction if they continued their action.

The 30 visiting journalists who took part in the rally included members of the National Union of Journalists from London, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Scunthorpe, Mansfield and Birmingham. The editor of the union's newspaper, Mr. Ron Knowles, said two members of the union executive were present.

The rally was called by the union in protest at the failure to agree terms for a return to work. The strike began in December over a claim for improved fringe benefits.

A peace formula was drawn up by the TUC's printing industries committee and was accepted seven weeks ago. But the 60 NUJ members are refusing to return to work until nine of their demands are met.

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Six charges are dropped in corruption trial

When the prosecution concluded its case in the Swansea corruption trial yesterday, Mr. Justice Kenneth Jones directed the jury to return verdicts of not guilty on each of three counts against a former leader of Swansea City Council, Gerald Murphy, and Emrys Harris, the council's suspended director of housing.

The two other defendants in the case, which opened on March 1, are Douglas John Barber, of Ice House Wood, Oxon, Surrey, marketing director of a company of boiler-makers, and Raymond John Bryant, of West Drive, Portlancott, chairman of Evermore Housing Ltd, of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

Each of the two company directors still faces 10 corruption charges. Mr. Harris now faces eight instead of 11 corruption charges, and Mr. Barber six instead of nine.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Murphy also face one charge each of dishonestly obtaining £19.40 each by deception from Swansea council. All defendants have denied all charges.

Move to music hall for Half Moon Theatre

Wilton's Music Hall, in Tower Hamlets, London, unused except for occasional filmings for many years, will once again be serving the East End community within two years. The Half Moon Theatre, in Allie Street, near by, have received permission from the Greater London Council to begin restoring the theatre to its glories of 1959, the year it was built by John Wilton.

In addition to the music hall complete with auditorium bar, the theatre will have a restaurant and a public house featuring live entertainment.

Several grants have put the theatre more than half way towards its £500,000 goal.

The move to Wilton's will mean an enlargement of the Half Moon programme to help develop more local talent. For many years the theatre has been a focus for plays written specifically for the community and what they call "updated" Brecht, to frequent touring productions, musical events and youth drama workshops.

Many meant well but simply did not know what the schools expected of them or what the children needed. It was at that large group, who probably did not belong to any parent-teacher association, that the proposal was chiefly aimed. She hoped that the proposal, if acted on, would reduce the number of "problem parents".

The importance of the support of the home to a child's schooling was well known. Recent studies had shown high positive correlations between truancy and lack of parental interest, and between truancy and overcrowding in the home.

Many schools were making great efforts to involve and interest parents through such traditional ways as inviting them to open days, parents' evenings, plays, and concerts. But other ways needed to be found to break through the barriers of timidity, mistrust, antipathy, and even antagonism behind which some parents sheltered.

Some schools were sending school reports home to parents with a space at the end for parents to fill in and send back with their comments. That was a good idea.

But it was also important that school reports, letters from the school, and other official communications should be written in a language to which the parents would respond. Some parents would not be receptive to any written communication.

Schools might seek to involve the community in many ways, she added: by trying to use parents' skills, such as gardening or building, which would be of benefit to the school and would make the less articulate parents feel welcome and useful; and by using school buildings out of school hours for sports, clubs, or even for pre-natal exercises.

Mr. James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday: "The results of the local referendum on the right to strike show the frustration and disgust felt by police officers at the contemptuous way the Government has treated our pay claim."

He added that the police received no pay increase under phase one of the Government's incomes policy and the claim for 15 under phase two had been rejected. "The police now need a 15-5-week increase to restore their wages to the level of the 1960 royal commission award," he said.

The referendum, organized by local branches of the federation, are part of the police men's mounting campaign for a new deal on pay.

Every force polled so far has produced a big majority in favour of the right to strike. In a 96 per cent poll in Kent, for example, 85.5 per cent of constables and 72.5 per cent of sergeants were in favour. Results of other polls of the ranks up to chief inspector were:

Devon and Cornwall, 91 per cent poll with 71 per cent in favour; Cambridgeshire, 92.7 per cent poll with 63.2 per cent for Northamptonshire, 82 per cent poll, 69 per cent for; Avon and Somerset, 50 per cent, 70.1 per cent for; Cleveland, 80 per cent with 79 per cent for; West Yorkshire, 74.8 per cent with 68.15 per cent for.

Other forces in favour are: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Wales, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire and City of London.

Police polls favour right to strike

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Other forces in favour are: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Wales, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire and City of London.

Sub-normal girl has to return to Holloway jail

A sub-normal girl set fire to a woman's hostel after a judge was forced to "turn her loose on society", it was said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The difficulty then was administrative and the judge put the blame for not finding the girl a suitable mental hospital "fairly and squarely on the Department of Health and Social Security."

Because of a similar difficulty yesterday, Suzanne Cornwell, aged 18, was back in Holloway prison last night, where she has been since her arrest.

Miss Cornwell, of Sandown, Isle of Wight, pleaded guilty to arson at the Camden Council Reception Centre for Women in London, causing £8,000 worth of damage and endangering 28 lives.

She also admitted stealing and forging a check, obtaining £525 with it. She was remanded until next Friday.

Mr. Lionel Lassman, her counsel, said she came to London for adventure. Doctors were agreed that she had a mental age of eight and was in need of help.

There was no bed available in the Wessex catchment area. There were beds in other areas, but hospitals were not allowed to take patients from another administrative area.

Appeal for iron lungs as polio outbreak precaution

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

A National Health Service hospital unit, specialising in caring for patients with serious breathing difficulties is appealing for second-hand iron lungs because of the possibility of a rise this summer in cases of poliomyelitis.

Dr. Geoffrey Spencer, head of the unit at the South Western Hospital, Stockwell, London, thinks that there may be some iron lungs lying in hospital basements. If they are retrieved they could help to ease pressures on his department in the event of a continued rise in poliomyelitis cases.

"Effective immunity in the country has now fallen to a level where an epidemic is once



Ambition realized: Mr Ronald Davey, conductor of the Tiverton Youth Orchestra for 33 years, fulfilled a long-standing ambition by hiring the Albert Hall, in London, and

wielding the baton with the orchestra on his sixty-fifth birthday yesterday. Mr Davey is shown with Tina Bari, aged nine, the youngest player in the orchestra.

Police polls favour right to strike

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Polls taken in more than 20 of 43 police forces in England and Wales show that a large majority of officers want the right to strike. That is in marked contrast with the result of research conducted as recently as 1973 which disclosed that only 20 per cent of constables then supported the right to strike, which is illegal for policemen under the Police Act, 1964.

Mr. James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday: "The results of the local referendum on the right to strike show the frustration and disgust felt by police officers at the contemptuous way the Government has treated our pay claim."

He added that the police received no pay increase under phase one of the Government's incomes policy and the claim for 15 under phase two had been rejected. "The police now need a 15-5-week increase to restore their wages to the level of the 1960 royal commission award," he said.

The referendum, organized by local branches of the federation, are part of the police men's mounting campaign for a new deal on pay.

Every force polled so far has produced a big majority in favour of the right to strike. In a 96 per cent poll in Kent, for example, 85.5 per cent of constables and 72.5 per cent of sergeants were in favour. Results of other polls of the ranks up to chief inspector were:

Devon and Cornwall, 91 per cent poll with 71 per cent in favour; Cambridgeshire, 92.7 per cent poll with 63.2 per cent for Northamptonshire, 82 per cent poll, 69 per cent for; Avon and Somerset, 50 per cent, 70.1 per cent for; Cleveland, 80 per cent with 79 per cent for; West Yorkshire, 74.8 per cent with 68.15 per cent for.

Other forces in favour are: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Northumbria, North Wales, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, West Yorkshire and City of London.

Hospital break-out deaths were avoidable, QC says

A break-out at the Carstairs top security mental hospital in Strathclyde in which three men were killed, was the result of avoidable if the hospital management had listened to the views of nurses, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr. Donald Robertson, QC, said on the last day of the 18-day inquiry into the escape that the Scottish Prison Officers' Association (SPOA) had been forced into the role of "a kind of Cassandra" at the hospital. They were "doomed to have their heads paid to representations and warnings made over a long period of time."

Mr. Robertson was making his closing address at the Lanark inquiry into the escape on November 13 of Thomas McCulloch and Robert Mone. Both men are serving life sentences for the murder of a nursing officer, a patient and a police constable, and Mr. Mone for the murder of the constable.

Mr. Robertson, representing

'Emigrate to Rhodesia' campaigner cleared

Roy Davostan, an insurance

salesman who runs an anti-communist campaign, was cleared at St Albans Crown Court yesterday of 10 charges of encouraging people to emigrate to Rhodesia.

After three of the charges had been withdrawn at the end of a long legal argument, Judge Anwyl-Davies, QC, ruled that the other seven charges, which Mr. Davostan denied, were wrongly worded under the Rhodesia sanctions Act and therefore unlawful.

The judge ruled that Mr. Davostan could not be convicted of helping individuals to emigrate to Rhodesia, only "members of the public generally" because of the wording of the Act.

Mr. Davostan, of Farnell Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, said afterwards that he was planning to open an office for his anti-communist work in Rhodesia. "We cannot turn our backs on Rhodesia. We cannot just forget them. I think it was a Christian verdict to be cleared on a bail-free legal basis," he said.

I intend to continue with my anti-communist work and help those who are willing to go to Rhodesia in such a way that will not bring me before the court again."

During the hearing Mr. Leo Charles, for the prosecution, claimed that Mr. Davostan tried to recruit workers to Rhodesia, breaking the Rhodesia sanctions Act, 1965, passed after Rhodesia declared itself independent.

Mr. Davostan advertised jobs at £150 a week and hoped to fly 30 plane-loads of young men to Rhodesia. Most would have been drafted into the Army, he claimed.

The jury heard that several hundred men, most of them unemployed, answered the advertisements and received recruiting leaflets.

Mr. Davostan, it was alleged, told the police: "They go out as engineers and civilian workers. They may join the Rhodesian Army when they get there but everything I am doing is legal."

It was said that Mr. Davostan was paid nothing, but acted because of his obsession with fighting world communism and his admiration for the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr. Ian Smith.

Custody remand for evicted major and wife

Lionel Parsons, aged 61, a retired army major, and his wife, Angela, aged 53, were remanded in custody yesterday for defying a magistrate's order and continuing their protest outside their former home in Cranley Mews, south Kensington, London.

They had been camping in a caravan outside the house since their eviction 18 months ago, but were banned from the area as a condition of being granted bail by Hove Magistrates' Court on Thursday. They are accused of damaging police cars. They deny the charges.

Yesterday Inspector Michael Goward told the court that the couple had refused to leave Cranley Mews after Thursday's hearing.

Home radar defence

Mr. Philip Cheetham, an electronics expert, of High Street, Brownhills, West Midlands, has equipped his home with radar, closed-circuit television and other devices in an attempt to resist invasion. His house is wanted by the local authority for demolition.

Girl's killer sought

Police are hunting the killer of Coral Vidler, aged 16, whose body was found in a garden near her home in Highfield Way, Horsham, Sussex. Coral's father called the police when she failed to return from a dance and he found bloodstains on a footpath.

Mr Gunter buried

Mr. Raymond Gunter, the former Labour minister, who died on Tuesday, was buried at Old Town, St. Mary's, in the Isles of Scilly yesterday. His son David, Mr. Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Lady Wilson were among the mourners.

Pilot's death

An inquest jury at Selby, North Yorkshire, returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr. Martin Woodhams, aged 44, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, a former RAF pilot, who died when a home-built, single-engine Pratt & Whitney aeroplane crashed in December.

Police appointments

Commander John Thornton became head of Scotland Yard's community relations branch yesterday. He succeeds Commander Robert Bryan, who has been appointed Deputy Assistant Commissioner for South and South-East London.

MP's charge dropped

A summons against Mr. John Mendelson, Labour MP for Penistone, accusing him of refusing to pay a tax fine, was dismissed because the driver did not appear at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Jubilee Rolls-Royce

A Rolls-Royce state limousine is to be presented to the Queen by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to mark her silver jubilee. It will cost £50,000.

WEST EUROPE

Communists recognize Spanish flag but give warning against moves to put clock back

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, April 15.—The Spanish Communist Party emerged tonight, after holding its first Central Committee meeting in Spain since the Civil War, with the sweet voice of reconciliation and as a considerably less radical party than before.

But Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party's secretary general, gave warning that any attempt to deny the party's right to defend the interests of the working class, now that the party was legal, would be catastrophic for the country. Señor Carrillo seemed to be trying hard not to antagonize the party's opponents unnecessarily.

He said if the monarchy of King Juan Carlos proved to be constitutional and bring real democracy to Spain then his party would not raise the question of republic or monarchy. But if "dark forces" tried to put back the clock and stop Spain's march to democracy, the party would have to act differently.

This spirit of reconciliation was symbolized by the party's recognition, for the first time, of the monarchist red and yellow national flag, which was pinned up along with the party's own flag of the hammer and sickle. Señor Carrillo said that the Central Committee voted by 169 votes in favour with 11 abstentions to display the monarchist flag with their own.

Flemish mayors prohibit posters in French

From David Cross

Brussels, April 15.—A running battle between Walloon political parties and the Flemish mayors who have banned French-language posters on their territory has provided the only drama in a short but otherwise uneventful campaign leading up to Belgium's eleventh general election since the Second World War.

Language and regional disputes have traditionally dominated Belgian politics and when the mayors of Overijse and Vilvoorde on the outskirts of Brussels and Mol, near the Dutch border, acted in defiance of higher authorities it was bound to provoke clashes between Dutch and Flemish language supporters. Several people were slightly injured

Denmark avoids strike

Copenhagen, April 15.—The Danish Parliament today voted into law a controversial contract with the trade unions, thus avoiding a national strike of at least 250,000 workers, and an election.

The contract, drafted after mediation, was accepted by the unions and opposed by the employers' federation. Wage increases were limited to 6 per cent annually, including cost of living bonuses.

The attempt to end the printers' strike that has silenced all but a few of Denmark's daily newspapers for three weeks. Meanwhile Copenhagen's Politiken announced that beginning on Monday it will publish wall newspapers comprising one news page and several pages of advertisements and general news.

New negotiations began today in the conflict at Berlingske Tidende, Denmark's largest publishing house. Berlingske is considered the key to solution of the national printers' strike. Associated Press.

Charges fail against Italian leader

From Patricia Clough

Rome, April 15.—Italy's parliamentary investigation commission has dismissed charges against President Leone and three former ministers for alleged irregularities during negotiations for big Government military contracts. The commission ruled last night that the accusations, laid by the Radical Party, were "clearly unfounded."

The Radicals, however, immediately announced that they are pursuing the case through the courts. They have laid charges against minor figures in the hope that investigations will be extended to the four politicians.

They have also arranged for libel charges to be brought against themselves in the hope of having their case examined in the civil courts.

The three former ministers are: Signor Mariano Rumor, the former Prime Minister; Signor Luigi Gui and Signor Mario Tanassi, former defence ministers.

The Italian government today approved a Bill for university reform, by which students, local authorities, trade unions and employer associations as well as professors would be represented on university governing bodies. The Bill does little to solve the main problem of universities—overcrowding.

Hope of ending postal chaos in Italy

From Our Correspondent

Rome, April 15.—An end to Italy's postal chaos is now in sight in the wake of an agreement between Signor Vittorio Colombo, the Minister of Post, and unions on organization.

Millions of letters, postcards and parcels have been piling up in post office warehouses in the bigger cities since the Government brought in restrictions on overtime.

The restrictions have also disrupted the postal Giro account system. This has caused great inconvenience to many businesses since many Italian pay bills through the post office rather than by cheque.

Under the agreement the restrictions will be suspended while work is reorganized.

"This is the flag of all Spaniards whatever their political beliefs," he said. "The issue is not between monarchy or republic, but democracy or dictatorship."

As I was returning from the scene of a demonstration for more credit union freedom at which riot police fired smoke bombs and rubber bullets, police stopped me and confiscated all the documents that were given to me at the conference along with all my notes. I presented my official accreditation but was menacingly told to go away by policemen with batons raised.

The Spanish Cabinet met today as opponents of the legalization of the Communist Party considered what protest action to take and members of illegal trade unions staged strikes.

The party's legalization, which resulted in the resignation of the Navy Minister and a guarded rebuke of the Government by conservative generals, is beginning to turn into a hot debate.

The neo-Francoist Popular Alliance, headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former interior Minister, has called for an emergency session of the Cortes (Parliament) over the Communist Party's legalization.

The Alliance, which seems to be trying to pull the rug from under the Suárez Government, has so far collected about 80

of the 100 signatures required before the President of the Cortes has to consider whether to call such a meeting.

Four of the Alliance's leaders are former ministers like Señor Fraga Iribarne, poured scorn on the Government's decision at meetings held yesterday despite the Government's ban on public meetings and demonstrations, which expires tomorrow.

Señor Fraga Iribarne claimed that the Communists wanted to "turn the churches into garages." He alluded to the massacre of several thousand people at Paracuellos del Jarama during the Civil War. Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Communist Party secretary-general, was head of public order during part of the time when the killings took place. He has denied any responsibility in the incident.

Señor Cruz Martínez Estremera said the Alliance would always be "belligerent" towards the Communists.

Señor Carrillo told members of the party's Central Committee last night that if the Popular Alliance won the general elections they would make General Pinochet of Chile "pale with envy."

Madrid, April 15.—Mr. Sergei Bagalov, the Soviet Union's first ambassador to Spain for almost 40 years, arrived here tonight to take up his post.—Reuter.

Police doubts on ransom call for Fiat chief

Paris, April 15.—French

police today gave reporters the impression that they were still baffled by the kidnapping of the head of the French subsidiary of Fiat, two days after armed men seized him.

Signor Lucchino Revelli-Beaumont was bundled into a car by four armed men on Wednesday night and police do not believe that the single ransom demand made was genuine. It took the form of an anonymous call to a local radio station from a group called "the committee for the defence of Italian workers in France". Police say they have never heard of such a group and they doubt its existence.

The anonymous caller demanded that a 3m franc (£350,000) ransom be handed out in food and medicines to unemployed Italian workers in France.

Fiat has been the target of a long list of politically motivated attacks in Italy and abroad in recent years, which strengthened speculation that politics could be behind Signor Revelli-Beaumont's abduction.—Reuter.

Franco's brother dies in naval hospital

Madrid, April 15.—General

Nicolas Franco, a brother of the late Spanish ruler, died in a naval hospital here today, aged 84. He served in the Naval Engineers Corps.—AP.

As a country boy I was brought up to believe that one's clothes should merge with the background rather than stand out. I have been seeking what might be termed "the year-round country look". The true country proof means just what it says—it is snag resistant due to the specialised double-twist weave that is employed, and this is the cloth that virtually a lifetime; unfortunately this has been replaced by the cheap, flimsy, flimsy cloth that now engulfs the looms to less permanent effect. I have however, now come up with the answer and it is one you can share with me. In the belief that there is a great demand for a superior jacket, I have placed a large order with a Yorkshire manufacturer in the hope that he would find it irresistible. He has, and we now have a new proof Twill jacket! With a content of 35% wool, 35% polyester and 30% cotton, these jackets are made in a variety of discreet checks in countryside colours of fern, bracken, larch or yew.

3 button fastening, rear centre vent, medium width lapels, 2 side pockets, chest pockets and inside waist pocket. Fully lined throughout. And the very size of the order ensures that you won't be paying fancy prices! Just look at this value for these inflationary times...

and to complement this jacket Pure Wool Cavalry Twill Trousers

Also made in Yorkshire, these superb trousers are cut from top quality pure wool cloth and bear the International Wool Mark, the sign that strict production standards have been met. The genuine Cavalry Twill weave has a fine grain and is unlined to the highest specification. They have two side pockets plus hip pocket, are generously cut and have a high waist and have a sturdy, foolproof zip fly. Particular distinction is lent to the style by imperceptibly flared plain bottoms.

Available in a choice of leg lengths—29", 31" or 33"—and three colours—Fawn, Brown or Olive.

Once again our price is pegged to a historic buying price—try buying equivalent trousers at even double the price, and prepared for the greatest difficulty!

Call if you can at any of our six shops or you may address your order to me for my personal attention.—David Edwards.

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OVERSEAS

Four killed in Lahore as Opposition turns down Bhutto proposal

From Richard Wigg
Lahore, April 15

At least four people are reported to have been killed and about 100 injured in rioting in Lahore today.

A demonstration against the Pakistan Government by students and other young people had passed off noisily but peacefully under heavy police escorts. When I arrived at the centre of the incidents which followed, however, a cinema owned by an MP from the ruling People's Party and shops below the party's three-storey office building had been set on fire.

Government supporters urged the police to take up positions by the party offices. As the police did so they fired off tear gas grenades and rifle shots. Young men on motor scooters started to rush out of the crowd, each one carrying a wounded person on his pillion. The police arrested a number of people but the figure has not been disclosed.

Fourteen policemen were reported to have been injured when a bomb was thrown into a police bus.

A physical confrontation between the Government and the Opposition seems to be inclining primarily towards the Opposition. The Prime Minister, who has been accused of inciting his followers to take the law into their own hands.

At a rally, Mr Bhutto had first urged his supporters to exercise patience for a few more days, and not take a line which might lead to violence. He went on to say, however: "If you are attacked, you have full right to self-defence." Party supporters should also protect party offices from attacks by "hooligans", he said.

The opposition National Alliance today rejected as "not worthy of any consideration" a proposal by Mr Bhutto to hold fresh provincial elections and, if the Opposition secured an overall majority in them, to hold a new general election.

After lengthy Cabinet meetings last night and this morning an offer of the election

formula, first suggested by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, the Attorney General, some days ago, was conveyed to the acting council of the National Alliance, which comprises nine opposition parties.

In a statement issued after considering the proposal the Alliance leaders said the offer was "entirely irrelevant to the objective for which the Alliance is agitating: the resignation of Mr Bhutto".

The statement accused Mr Bhutto of being responsible for rigging the March 7 general election and repeated the Alliance's demands for the supervision by the armed forces and the judiciary of fresh elections as well as the formation of a new election commission.

It dismissed the Government proposal as "a device to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan from the real objective". The opposition leaders emphasized that they would have no confidence in new elections if Mr Bhutto stayed in power.

Last night Mr Bhutto was given a much-publicized dinner by Lieutenant-General Muhammad Ishtiaq Khan, the Lahore Army Corps commander, who ranks third in the Army hierarchy. This, evidently, was to show the Opposition the dangerous possibilities of the Army intervening to establish "law and order".

Our Rawalpindi Correspondent writes: One person was reported to have been killed by firing and another stabbed in the chest in Karachi today, between Alliance demonstrators and People's Party supporters. Three people were also reported to have been killed in Jamshur, Punjab, during clashes between the police and demonstrators.

Mr Sardar Shabaz Hayat, an influential landowner, today urged fellow members of the National Assembly to gather informally in the capital and try to work out some political solution.

"I fear the country is on the brink of civil war", he said. He was prepared to give up his assembly seat if others were willing to do the same.

Dr Owen is optimistic on Salisbury mission

Continued from page 1

He said a major problem would be the form of government which would cope with the interim period during which the election would take place and it would be best if this period could be kept short.

That will be the time I will be going to Mr Smith to ask him to give up the reins of government, going to the Patriotic Front to tell them to give up violence; when the free world and the United States will have to decide to give up sanctions.

He did not envisage a formal constitutional conference in the early stages but expected that there would be working groups on both sides identifying the main issues. He was not expecting an immediate decision from Mr Smith on his proposals. He was against tight schedules.

Asked about the possibility of a continuing British Government presence in Rhodesia, he said he would have to think about that. It would depend on whether there was a dialogue taking place.

Dr Owen made it clear that the United States was sponsoring the proposed conference and that he would be its chairman. Decisions on when and where the talks would take place and their form would be made jointly by Britain and the United States.

The Foreign Secretary has a tightly packed programme for his short stay in Rhodesia.

Immediately after his press conference Dr Owen met Mr Garfield Todd, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, and separate delegations from the Nkomo and Muzorewa African nationalist factions. Mr Todd, long detained by Mr Smith, is now a legal adviser to the Nkomo faction.

Tomorrow Dr Owen is scheduled to have 12 separate meetings with people ranging from the chairman of the ruling Rhodesian Front, Mr Des Frost, to a group representing the nationalist faction led by the Rev Ndomingani Sithole.

After lunch he is due to visit an African township and tribal trust land near Marandellas. A meeting with Mr Smith is scheduled for 8.30 pm and the day is due to end with an interview on Rhodesian radio and television at 10 pm. Dr Owen will leave for Lagos on Sunday morning.

Dar es Salaam: The Presidents of Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania are expected to meet in Luanda on Monday to discuss ways of intensifying the guerrilla war in Rhodesia, official sources said.—Reuter.

World chess is postponed

Reykjavik, April 15.—Illness has caused another postponement of the chess match between Boris Spassky and Vladimir Horowitz in the quarter-finals of the world chess championship. The match will now be resumed on Sunday.

A playoff became necessary when each finished their 12-game quarter-final series with six points. The first pair of playoff games were drawn.—AP.

One dead, two hurt in mine cave-in

Cagliari, Sardinia, April 15.—A miner was killed and two others were injured when part of a mine caved in near here today, police reported.—AP.



Mrs Thatcher, the Tory leader, being entertained in Tokyo by Mr Fukuda, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Mrs Thatcher praises Japanese efficiency

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, April 15

Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, toured the Nissan car factory on the outskirts of Tokyo today and was provided with an apt example of how the Japanese have built up their competitive power and cut costs.

Britain's car market through hard work and modern production techniques. After touring the plant and hearing that the individual productivity of Nissan's work force exceeds Leyland's output by 400 per cent, Mrs Thatcher told Mr Katsujir Kawamura, the president of the company: "It was so refreshing to see everyone working. No one was standing around doing nothing."

According to recent EEC statistics, the productivity of Nissan Motors has risen to 41 cars a worker a year, compared with the average European worker's output of 11 vehicles a year.

A spokesman for the Nissan Corporation said later today: "We hope that Mrs Thatcher now understands how Japan can market its cars at cheaper prices in Britain and other international markets."

Thousands flee fire at US racecourse

Cherry Hills, New Jersey, April 15.—Thousands of people were evacuated from the Garden State Park horse race course here yesterday as fire swept through the club house and grandstands, destroying both.

Police said there were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries. Riders escaped from the jockeys' room in an upper storey by climbing down fire hoses thrown out of the window.

The fire began during the sixth race and was soon raging out of control.

People in the upper floors of the club house had to fight their way through the billowing smoke to a rear exit, a racing official said.—Reuter.

Cyprus threat to Britons

From Our Correspondent
Nicosia, April 15

Threats to kidnap and kill British diplomats and military staff here have been made by the extreme right-wing Eoka-B Greek Cypriot organization.

Letters received by the British High Commission said the threats would be acted upon if the Cyprus Government failed to take any action against the Eoka-B gunmen.

British diplomats said the threats were being taken seriously. "All it takes is a couple of irresponsible people..."

"Japan's wage level is no longer low on international scales. The hourly wage rate for the manufacturing industry is slightly higher than the rates in Britain. The fact is that we can compete on the free market because we have invested in modern plants and the industry is not threatened by continual strikes."

There can be little doubt that her first personal glimpse of Japanese industry, providing a vivid comparison for the situation at home, has more than impressed the Conservative leader and her entourage.

Accompanied by Sir Michael Wilford, the British Ambassador, Mrs Thatcher attended a lavish reception tonight and told her Japanese conservative hosts, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, that she will promote closer ties between the two countries.

Asked by journalists after this speeches to make a specific comment on Japan's successful approach to economic progress, Mrs Thatcher raised her eyebrows in apparent despair and said: "It reflects the state of British industry today; just look at the figures."

Heavy losses by rebels during Mandalay battle

Rangoon, April 15.—Communist insurgents have attacked an army post north-east of Mandalay and a battle with Burmese government forces left 72 dead, including 53 guerrillas, the official Burma news agency reported today.

The agency said that about 30 communist guerrillas surrounded an army post before dawn on Monday last and a three-hour battle began. The rebels destroyed the town's treasury, two warehouses belonging to the state trading department and a local co-operative society before Government reinforcements arrived.

Further fighting took place about seven miles outside the town and aircraft attacked the rebel positions.—Reuter.

Court names protector for goods of Beatrice Lillie

New York, April 15.—A Manhattan judge today appointed a former justice of the New York Supreme Court, Mr Sidney Fine, to protect the property of Beatrice Lillie, aged 82, the comedienne, actress and singer.

Judge Edward Greenfield declared: "The court is quite concerned with the possibility that those who are purporting to serve Miss Lillie's interests may be profiting therefrom."

Miss Lillie, who is Lady Peel in private life, suffered a stroke in January 1975, while residing in New York City. She has cataracts and is partially paralysed.

Mr John Philip Huck, who has been associated with the comedienne for the past 30 years as producer and companion, sought the appointment of a conservator of her property.

After she became ill, Mr Huck arranged for private nursing in a Park Avenue apartment in New York. The cost was more than \$66,000 a

Soviet stance on Salt does not surprise US

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, April 15

President Carter said today that he saw no reason to change the basic American proposals on strategic arms limitation. Despite the remarkable attack on the American position in *Pravda*, he said that he was still encouraged about the chances of a new Salt agreement.

He said he did not consider that the talks had reached an impasse and that he would be willing to meet Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, but did not commit himself to proposing a meeting.

The first question at his press conference this morning concerned Salt and the *Pravda* article. He replied: "I think that the Soviet response has been predictable."

I have been somewhat concerned lately that they have decided to go public as much as they have, and I have to say that there is a very important distinction that ought to be drawn between private and determined negotiations which are being pursued, on the one hand, and the education of the public, the presentation of issues to people in our own country which has always been the case since I've been in office.

It is very encouraging to know that Mr Brezhnev and his other leaders are, through *Pravda*, explaining the Soviet position to the people of Russia. I see nothing wrong with the Soviet leadership giving their arguments and their excuses to the public.

Mr Carter added: "I would welcome a chance to meet with General Secretary Brezhnev on a continuing basis, annually at least, and I hope that later on this year he and I might meet in our own country."

The President said that it was important not to assume that each meeting would produce an agreement.

After the press conference, he told reporters that he did not want to send Mr Brezhnev a conditional invitation to come to Washington in September or October, providing that a Salt agreement had been reached or could be reached. He thought that they should get acquainted, but hoped that, in fact, a new Salt agreement would have been reached before.

Vienna, April 15.—Nato and Warsaw Pact negotiators today wound up their latest round of talks on reducing forces with each side accusing the other of blocking agreement on cutbacks in Central Europe.

Mr Willem de Vos van Steenwijk of Holland, speaking for the Nato countries at the four-year-old talks, told a press conference that the chief stumbling block was the Warsaw Pact's insistence that both alliances should make equal cuts in manpower.

But Mr Jiri Meisner, of Czechoslovakia, for the Warsaw Pact, said at a separate press conference that Nato's demands for bigger cuts by the Soviet bloc was an important obstacle.

Nato says the Soviet bloc enjoys a 150,000-man advantage and should make the larger initial reductions, but the Warsaw Pact says both sides have roughly the same numbers.

Today, Mr Mulley, the Secretary of Defence, is paying a three-day official visit to Austria, set in on the meeting, the first time a senior minister from either side has attended.

British officials said his presence was purely "coincidental".—Reuter.

The programme, showed without exception by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and other television networks, Mr Carter disarmed that he is preparing another televised message to the nations of the world emphasizing his peaceful intentions.

He talked of ranging across half a dozen issues from arms reductions to concern over southern Africa and nuclear power policies, before meeting the gentle suggestion from Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, his

national security adviser, that it might be better to focus on one or two main topics.

The overall impression given by the inevitably stilted performance was that Mr Carter is enjoying himself, that he likes being tough with the Russians, but that he is not shy of showing how much he still has to learn.

"None of their business", he snaps when asked whether the Russians ought to be notified in advance that he is sending son, Jack, to China, as a congressional delegation. He looks as if he is soaking up information from all his meetings—rarely needing yet to come to decisions. And he knows his way around the public room less well than does his wife, Rosalynn.

Inevitably the programme was contrived. The casualness was affected, yet Mr Carter has such a masterful way with the television camera that he can seem without affectation.

Much of the programme seemed more like an in-house rehearsal for the Cabinet, staff and Congressmen were trotted across the screen. Part of the Cabinet meeting seemed less informative than a press briefing—recalling Mr Crossman's dicta—both of which were ordered stopped, suggest-

ing that sometimes sensitive matter was discussed.

Mr Carter's weekly Oval Office lunch with Vice-President Mondale was shown, rather than an insipid looking affair, with blueberry pie the most adventurous dish and obligatory grace said by the President.

There were two unexpected, perhaps unintentional, touches. Mr Jody Powell, press secretary, was shown talking to Mr Carter, with some indignation, a news item which he said "impugned" the President's son and Mr Carter's appointments secretary, Mr Tim Kraft, was shown jumping to his feet when Mr Carter telephoned. Both were uncanny reminders of the Nixon days.

It was a busy day with Mr Carter at his desk by 6.30 am and not back to bed until midnight. It had its pressures from policy makers and electionist senators but no clashes.

There was the ever quick response to his wife. He answered her call between meetings to come to hear a polka child prodigy playing the piano for a group of visitors.

In some sense the programme marks the end of the opening chapter. With the launching of the much-touted tough energy programme next week, a lot of the pleasantness may have to stop.

Bermudian court upholds death sentence

Hamilton, April 15.—A Bermudian court here has dismissed an appeal by Larry Winfield Tacklyn, aged 29, against his conviction for a double murder, upholding the death sentence passed in November.

Mr Tacklyn was convicted of killing two supermarket owners during a robbery, together with Erskine Burrows, aged 32, who had earlier been sentenced to death for the murder of Sir Richard Sharpley, the Governor, in March, 1973.

Mr Burrows refused to plead at his trial and has not appealed against his two death sentences.

The death sentence is mandatory in Bermuda for murder, but no one has been hanged here for more than 30 years.

Court names protector for goods of Beatrice Lillie

New York, April 15.—A Manhattan judge today appointed a former justice of the New York Supreme Court, Mr Sidney Fine, to protect the property of Beatrice Lillie, aged 82, the comedienne, actress and singer.

Judge Edward Greenfield observed: "Miss Lillie, once a gay, scintillating and zany star, who delighted audiences on both sides of the Atlantic with her antics is now a pathetic and helpless figure, paralysed, incapable of speech, and without family, passing her days in blindness while her remaining assets dwindle."

He added: "The various expenses incurred in connexion with the sale of a single item of her property, the Modigliani painting, may also be excessive."

Arrangements should be made, he said, "for Miss Lillie's transportation to England where she can be maintained for considerably less than the current expenditures."—AP.

Zaire Army loses men in attack on rebels

Kinshasa, April 15.—Zaire

Government troops, backed by air attacks, moved against rebels in southern Zaire today, provoking clashes which left several dozen Government troops dead and wounded, a Western military expert said here.

He said they were the most violent clashes since March 8 when a force of former Katangan gendarmes invaded Shaba province.

The offensive, the first by Government troops, was reportedly mounted about 50 miles from Kolwezi, the capital of Shaba, towards Mutshasha, an important road and rail junction town held by the rebels. The 1,500 Moroccan troops flown in by the French Air Force over the past week were not involved.

The rebels had made no attacks for the past fortnight and today's Army move was intended to test their strength, the expert said. He added that the invaders had received reinforcements during this period.

Brussels: President Mobutu said in an interview published here today that Zaire's most dangerous moment has passed and his Government would regain control of Shaba.

In an interview with *La Libre Belgique*, the President said the invading rebels from Angola had no chance of taking over the copper mining centre of Kolwezi.

President Nto of Angola had organized the bombing of the Zambian villages to create animosity between Zaire and Zambia. He praised President Giscard d'Estaing's action in spearheading Western help for Zaire.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Television viewers given one or two surprises as the White House doors open to admit the cameras

Day at the office with Mr Carter

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 15

President Carter last night let the people in, via the television cameras, to a Cabinet meeting and miscellaneous other activities during a day at the office which included inquiring of President Sadat of Egypt whether he needed to use the "rest room".

This solicitude, coming after the visitor had travelled one minute and a half from Blair House, and gone through 15 minutes of air ceremonies, was possibly the most precedent-shattering glimpse of this "open" presidency so far. It will probably turn out to be the most popular moment of this televised *Day with the President*.

The programme, showed without exception by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and other television networks, Mr Carter disarmed that he is preparing another televised message to the nations of the world emphasizing his peaceful intentions.

He talked of ranging across half a dozen issues from arms reductions to concern over southern Africa and nuclear power policies, before meeting the gentle suggestion from Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, his

national security adviser, that it might be better to focus on one or two main topics.

The overall impression given by the inevitably stilted performance was that Mr Carter is enjoying himself, that he likes being tough with the Russians, but that he is not shy of showing how much he still has to learn.

"None of their business", he snaps when asked whether the Russians ought to be notified in advance that he is sending son, Jack, to China, as a congressional delegation. He looks as if he is soaking up information from all his meetings—rarely needing yet to come to decisions. And he knows his way around the public room less well than does his wife, Rosalynn.

Inevitably the programme was contrived. The casualness was affected, yet Mr Carter has such a masterful way with the television camera that he can seem without affectation.

Much of the programme seemed more like an in-house rehearsal for the Cabinet, staff and Congressmen were trotted across the screen. Part of the Cabinet meeting seemed less informative than a press briefing—recalling Mr Crossman's dicta—both of which were ordered stopped, suggest-

ing that sometimes sensitive matter was discussed.

Mr Carter's weekly Oval Office lunch with Vice-President Mondale was shown, rather than an insipid looking affair, with blueberry pie the most adventurous dish and obligatory grace said by the President.

There were two unexpected, perhaps unintentional, touches. Mr Jody Powell, press secretary, was shown talking to Mr Carter, with some indignation, a news item which he said "impugned" the President's son and Mr Carter's appointments secretary, Mr Tim Kraft, was shown jumping to his feet when Mr Carter telephoned. Both were uncanny reminders of the Nixon days.

It was a busy day with Mr Carter at his desk by 6.30 am and not back to bed until midnight. It had its pressures from policy makers and electionist senators but no clashes.

There was the ever quick response to his wife. He answered her call between meetings to come to hear a polka child prodigy playing the piano for a group of visitors.

In some sense the programme marks the end of the opening chapter. With the launching of the much-touted tough energy programme next week, a lot of the pleasantness may have to stop.

Bermudian court upholds death sentence

Hamilton, April 15.—A Bermudian court here has dismissed an appeal by Larry Winfield Tacklyn, aged 29, against his conviction for a double murder, upholding the death sentence passed in November.

Mr Tacklyn was convicted of killing two supermarket owners during a robbery, together with Erskine Burrows, aged 32, who had earlier been sentenced to death for the murder of Sir Richard Sharpley, the Governor, in March, 1973.

Mr Burrows refused to plead at his trial and has not appealed against his two death sentences.

The death sentence is mandatory in Bermuda for murder, but no one has been hanged here for more than 30 years.

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Arrangements should be made, he said, "for Miss Lillie's transportation to England where she can be maintained for considerably less than the current expenditures."—AP.

Polanski plea of not guilty

Los Angeles, April 15.—Mr Roman Polanski, the film director, today pleaded not guilty to charges of rape and sexual perversion against a 13-year-old schoolgirl, saying: "I can't wait to be vindicated."

Mr Talbot Callister, a Superior Court judge, ordered transcripts of a grand jury hearing at which Mr Polanski was indicted on March 24 to be sealed for the time being "to protect the privacy of the 13-year-old girl involved in this case."

He also ordered that the trial should be transferred to the seaside town of Santa Monica, 16 miles away where the alleged rape and sex offences took place on March 10.

A date for Mr Polanski's trial will be set in Santa Monica next Wednesday.

Herr Schmidt to visit President Tito

Berlin, April 15.—Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, will visit President Tito in Yugoslavia on May 27 and 28.

Drums and fireworks greet Mao book

Peking, April 15.—There were celebrations with drums and firecrackers today as people flocked to buy new books of writings by Mao Tse-tung.

More than 200 million copies are being printed of what looks like being a best-seller here, although it appears to hold few surprises for historians of China.

The book is volume five of Mao's selected works. It is being published under the direction of China's new administration, led by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, which has followed generally moderate and pragmatic policy since the purge of radical leaders after Mao's death.

The four earlier volumes covered only the years up to the 1949 Communist Party takeover. The new book—assem-

Newspaper chiefs seized in Argentina

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, April 15

The publisher and deputy manager of a leading Buenos Aires newspaper disappeared today after being taken from their homes during the night by armed men in civilian clothes.

Relatives said Señor Jacobo Timerman, 53-year-old founder and publisher of the independent newspaper *La Opinion*, and Señor Enrique Jara, aged 37, his deputy manager, were seized by 20 men who first claimed to be neo-Peronist Montonero guerrillas, but later identified themselves as soldiers.

The seizure case, which has been brewing here for weeks, erupted yesterday with an army announcement that 15 prominent people had been arrested for subversive activities and economic crimes.

The central figure is Señor David Graiver, an Argentine banker whose reported death last August in a Mexican air crash, when his financial empire was in serious difficulties, brought bank collapses and closures.

The same document said China's policy towards the United States was to deprive it of as much political capital as possible and "put it in a wrong and isolated position."

"You Americans can go on without recognition of our government for our part, but I doubt if you can withhold it in the 101st. One day the United States will have to establish diplomatic relations with us."

When that happens, the Chairman said, "They will not find many friends here and they cannot do much even if they spread a few germs."

In another speech Mao said: "To overtake the United States is not only possible, but absolutely necessary."—Reuter.

Libya 'plot' to annex oasis area

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, April 15

Egypt has made another accusation against Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, saying he had been plotting to annex Egypt's western desert oasis of Siwa.

In a front-page report today *Al Gomhuria*, the semi-official Egyptian newspaper, said the Egyptian authorities had foiled "Colonel Gaddafi's plot" and arrested a number of tribesmen, described as Libyan agents.

The newspaper said the tribesmen had been recruited by the Libyan intelligence service, on Colonel Gaddafi's orders, after being trained in Libya to use bombs, hand grenades and machine guns.

Investigations revealed, *Al Gomhuria* said, that the tribesmen's duty was to commit acts of sabotage and create panic in the oasis and prepare for its annexation to Libya.

Since its feud with Libya began more than four years ago, Egypt has repeatedly accused Colonel Gaddafi of attempting to annex Egypt's entire western desert.

Cairo has also accused the

colonel of issuing to a large number of Egyptian Beduin identity cards

SPORT

Racing

Wary trainers playing a waiting game

From Desmond Stoneham
Paris, April 15

Forecasting for Sunday's racing at Longchamp is difficult because few runners in both the Prix d'Essai and the Prix de Guiche, it seems the Chantilly trainers have been playing a waiting game with each other and the final runners will not be known until 11.45 am tomorrow.

At the head of this game is Francois Mathet, who is being cautious about the seasonal first appearance of his son of Brigadier Gerard, having talked with many at Longchamp today, I believe General will run in the Prix de Guiche, leaving the more valuable Prix d'Essai for my selection, Balens.

Balens, who is owned by Sir Michael Sobell, ran only three times last season, winning on his last two outings. In his last, the Prix de Caen at Deauville, he was a comfortable winner from Hermodeo and Dalaud, who recently finished third to the now sadly injured Kex Magna in the Prix de Guiche. On his only other outing in 1976, Balens won the group three Prix St-Roman at Longchamp. Pommiers, Le Despute and Monseigneur who is a well backed favourite for the Epsom Derby, I expect a strong start, already a pressed by Casque, thereby a

winner of his only race this season, the Prix de la Maison Lafitte, at Evry, on March 24 and Casque had a short race to spare over Chantilly, with Crystal Palace third. Others who should run well are Mr Daniel Widenstein's Sadino, third to Vagaries in the Prix Juigne, Conglomérat, a winner by six lengths of last season's Critérium de St Cloud, and El Criollo, trained by Richard Carver.

Assuming that General contests the group three Prix de Guiche, I feel that there is little point in opposing this son of Brigadier Gerard.

PRIX DARU (Group II: 3-y-o colts and fillies: £23,474: 1m 25f)

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Zoroaster to show troubles are past

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

There is a lot to like about the card at Newbury today. Sponsored for the fifth time by the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society the Greenham Stakes is an important classic trial, and as such it may well steal most of the limelight although the John Porter Stakes and the Newbury Spring Cup are both every bit as good in their different ways.

Tachypous, currently the second favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, runs in the Greenham Stakes in which he must give 5lb to all his rivals. This was his first race since he won the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket last autumn and it promises to be a rigorous test because his opposition includes Fair Season and Rocket Symphony who have both acquitted themselves well in similar races already this season and Black Sulphur who has been sent all the way from France.

With the advantage of previous races Fair Season and Rocket Symphony should both be very hard to beat on this occasion. Fair Season who finished third in the Minstrel and Caribou at Ascot a fortnight ago is preferred. When one analyses his form his chances of winning this race becomes more and more apparent. At Doncaster last September Fair Season failed by only a length and a half to catch Mr McAvoy and he was trying to give 15lb to the filly who won the Fair Handicap

at Newmarket on Wednesday. Rocket Symphony won the classic trial at Kempton Park a week ago but he has been better than his weight in the Free Handicap which suggests. On a line through the Digitalis it is possible to argue that he ought to have had at least 8lb which was a pound less than Fair Season actually got.

All that suggests that there may not be very much between Fair Season and Rocket Symphony at the end of the day. And together they could be too good for Tachypous on this occasion. It is difficult to know what to make of the French challenger Black Sulphur. He won two races over five furlongs last season, one of which he got on the disqualification of Haecena. Later in the season Haecena finished only fourth in the Chevalier Park Stakes which suggests that Sulphur is nothing out of the ordinary. On the other hand, Yves Saint Martin has flown over specially for the ride.

Orange Bay, the winner of the Italian Derby in 1975, and the Jockey Club Stakes and the Hardwicke Stakes here last year, heads the list of acceptors for the John Porter Stakes. His opposition on this occasion includes Old Bill who won the Chester Vase last May; Swift Fellow who won the Geoffrey Freer Stakes on today's card last August; Hallford, who won the Jockey Club Stakes at Doncaster last month Zoroaster went a long way towards proving that the troubles which have plagued him for the better part of two seasons are now a thing of the past.

By far the most impressive aspect of the racing at Newbury yesterday was the way that Dural Lighter. At his best Orange Bay would have a favourite's chance but he does not appear at a safe bet because his stable has still to find its rhythm. Old Bill is suggested to those looking for an alternative.

A more open race than the Newbury Spring Cup it would be hard to imagine. There are 21 runners for this handicap run over a mile and any number are expected to run really well. I hope that the winner will come from a short list comprising last year's 2,000 Guineas third Thieving Demon, Blustery and Miss Filbert, who both ran so well in the Lincoln, Air Trooper, who ran away with the Rosebery Stakes at Newbury a week ago, Allante and Zoroaster. Allante worked extremely well with Lucky Wednesday not long ago and with Henry Cecil's horses fast running into form he ought to go close. But Zoroaster is preferred on this occasion in the belief that he is well handicapped with only 7lb.

With a setback in training as a two-year-old Zoroaster was considered to be better than his stable companion Star to Reason. Yet today he will be receiving 12lb from Star and Doncaster last month Zoroaster went a long way towards proving that the troubles which have plagued him for the better part of two seasons are now a thing of the past.

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Sentiment the obstacle in opposing Red Rum

By Michael Seely

For reasons of sentiment alone I have no intention of opposing Red Rum in his attempt to repeat his 1974 triumph in the Scottish Grand National at Ayr this afternoon. On all known form our Editor should be favourable to give William Whitbread his third successive victory in this race. At Aintree, our Editor showed himself to be the most improved steenchaser in training when beating Broncho II by five lengths in the Westbury Handicap.

It is true that Broncho would have finished closer if he had not been hampered in the straight. But that was our Editor's third win off the reel and Broncho endorsed the form in an exceptionally fast time in the Welsh Champion Steeplechase. The fact that our Editor's third win off the reel and Broncho endorsed the form in an exceptionally fast time in the Welsh Champion Steeplechase.

Red Rum is not the horse over park fences that he is at Liverpool. His canny and cautious approach to his jumps is set to lose him ground when the heat is turned on and his younger and more carefree opponents are chasing back and letting themselves go. And despite his five victories at Ayr, the fast Scottish

Circuit is not the ideal track for Red Rum to exploit his status. But this is not a high-class field. Even up to our Editor's preference, Red Rum is well beaten by Red Rum at Aintree. Banfield is a wayward creature, but this could be his race if he is in the right mood. Fred Kimmel will be seeking compensation for Andy Pandy's untimely fall at Aintree with Double Negative.

The Scottish-trained Sebastian V was in the lead when he fell at Becher's the first time round at Liverpool and is fancied to capture this trophy for Hawick today. But the extended four mile race is still a dire test of stamina. Greyhound provided that Red Rum does not get too far behind in the early stages, I expect to see Donald McAlin's infectious optimism justified.

Factor Castray can complete a remarkable treble by capturing the Scottish Champion Hurdle with Sea Pigeon. In receipt of 10lb from the disappointing Red Rum, Sea Pigeon looks unbeatable this afternoon.

On the flat at Beverley, Sindab can gain his fourth course success at the expense of Yamsford and Grey Sall in the John Hudson Memorial Handicap. Yamsford could walk this if the redoubtable Edward Hall can persuade him to put his best foot forward, but I shall rely on Sindab, who should be all the better for his first run.

Newbury programme

[Television (BBC1): 2.0, 2.30, 3.0 and 3.30 races]

2.0 BUCKLEBURY STAKES (3-y-o mf: £1,303: 7f)
101 Amala, P. Cundell, 8-11
102 Country Bee, R. Houghton, 8-11
103 Belling, C. D. Jones, 8-11
104 Cap Surrender, R. Houghton, 8-11
105 Belling, C. D. Jones, 8-11
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the obstacle
Red Run

Saturday Review

This account of poker at the White House is adapted from *Total Poker*, by David Spanier.

Washington for me has always been a gambling town. Though it may seem hard to believe, looking down from the elegant heights of Capitol Hill, it was a gambling town from its early days. Most gaming rooms were on or around Pennsylvania Avenue, a short ride from the Capitol, a tradition admirably carried forward in modern times by the cardroom of the National Press Club on 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Of all nineteenth-century politicians, nobody better personified the swashbuckling, high-gambling poker player than Henry Clay. In the Presidential election of 1832, when he was thought to be the only man who might beat Jackson, his reputation as a poker player attracted some censure. One of his services to his constituents in Kentucky had been to soften the effect of legislation such as the 1804 Act to suppress gaming in the state. A hostile paper in New Hampshire claimed that Clay "spends his days at the gaming table and his nights in a brothel." He evidently enjoyed poker downtown quite as much as politics up on Capitol Hill. He once won \$40,000 in a single evening in Lexington from a certain John Bradford. The next day Bradford confessed he couldn't raise the money. Clay did the gentlemanly and the wise thing: "Oh, give me your note for five hundred dollars and let the balance go."

Around Henry Clay have grown up some of the classic myths of poker, like his hand against Daniel Webster.

With Webster dealing, Clay took one card on the draw and Webster stood pat. The two went on raising each other until each had \$2,000 on the table. At this stage Clay stopped raising and called. According to this account Webster laughed sheepishly and threw down his cards. "I only have a pair of deuces," he said. Clay laughed too. "The pot is yours," he said. "I only have an ace high."

Even if he thought Webster was bluffing, which he was, Clay had to put him better than just an ace. He would have done better to fold when his own bluff was raised, and resisted the temptation to call the last raise. What is endearing about Clay is that he was a good loser as well as a good winner.

Then, of course, there is Henry Clay's theatrical dismissal of a member of the company whom he caught with an extra ace in his hand. "He slowly drew himself out of his seat, and rose upward until he seemed about seventeen feet tall. He drew his pistol and the man made for the door. Clay did not follow him but expressed his indignation by walking around to his chair and shooting a hole through its centre."

Nor did Clay confine his high spirits to the gaming tables. He had an eye for a pretty girl, too. When John Quincy Adams accused Clay of offering a serving maid, "young, rosy and fair to look upon," a five-franc piece for a kiss, Clay raised his accuser back with devastating effect. According to W. J. Florence's *Handbook on Poker* (1891), Adams, who "seldom made a joke," had a weakness in his eyes that kept him constantly busy mopping up the tears. Clay was momentarily taken aback, but he charged, then pulled out his handkerchief and, wiping his eyes in imitation of Adams's gesture, told the assembled company that it was true. "I did offer the maid five francs for a kiss, but as I attempted to take it she sprang from my embrace and indignantly exclaimed: 'Do you think I am such a fool as to give you a kiss for five francs when I've refused thirty old gentlemen across the hall, who have offered me twenty with tears in his eyes?'"

Adams took the joke so badly he refused to speak to Clay thereafter. Eventually Clay apologized, explaining that he had been dumfounded by Adams's remark, "the more so because it contained more truth than fancy."

In spite of the puritan spirit of the founding fathers, poker was not necessarily a handicap in public life, certainly not when it came to catching President Cleveland's eye. "I chanced on a deal that I picked up a pat flush," Mr. Cleveland said in a letter to Henry Waterson, a Southern journalist and politician, recalls the story. Besides the President, the players included Secretary of the Navy Whitney, Senator Don Cameron of Pennsylvania, and Speaker of the House John Griffin Carlisle.

"The Pennsylvania senator and I went to the extreme, the President of course willing enough for us to play his hand for him. But the Speaker of the House persistently stayed with us and could not be driven away. When it came to a draw, Senator Cameron drew one card. Mr. Cleveland stood pat. But Mr. Carlisle drew four



Illustration by Trevor Sutton

Presidential Poker

by David Spanier

Poker is a great revealer of character, of Presidents as of lesser men.

Nixon bluffed too high over Watergate.

Khrushchev was a winner, but in the Cuban missile crisis Kennedy outplayed him.

cards. At length, after much banter and betting, it reached a showdown and, *mirabile dictu*, the Speaker held four kings!

"Take the money," exclaimed the President. "If I am ever President again you shall be Secretary of the Treasury. But don't make that four-card draw too often." He was President again, and Mr. Carlisle was Secretary of the Treasury.

The odds to draw three more kings, assuming Carlisle could have divined that none was out before the draw, were about 650 to one. The route to high office, no doubt, was not quite as direct as that ascribed to Carlisle, but it is pleasing to think that a Secretary of the Treasury might be preferred not for his close and cautious attitude to finance but, on the contrary, because he had the inspiration and luck to make a long shot pay off.

Diplomacy has more in common with poker than does high finance. In general, one might say that the Russians play chess and the Americans play poker. The analogy is a broad one, but it seems indicative of how the superpowers regard the world. At the level of grand strategy, the Russians are trying to change the world entirely, to recast it in their own mould. The United States, though ready to defend democracy as a form of government, is essentially aiming to meet each challenge as it arises, to win out.

Poker is ideally suited to the American temperament: it is fast, it has action, it is a game in which daring and courage are the qualities that are most admired. Chess is slow, deep and reflective, and besides pro-

ducing winners and losers, frequently results in draws.

When the Russians, with their mastery of chess, become involved in a poker contest, they are at a disadvantage. In Cuba, Khrushchev was playing the wrong game, in the wrong place, for the wrong stakes. When the United States got drawn into Vietnam, it, too, was operating in the wrong dimension of a "no-win" situation.

What a pity Richard Nixon did not apply his poker principles to his conduct of the Presidency. From a personal point of view, he would have fared far better. And the Republic would have been spared much anguish. Poker is a great revealer of character, a truism that applies to Presidents as well as to lesser men. The young Nixon, as it happens, was a good poker player, conservative but with a quick eye for the winning chance. What is surprising is not that he played well, but that as a convinced Quaker, he chose to play at all.

His first regular acquaintance with the game was in his early naval days in 1943, when he was posted out to the Pacific. Lieutenant Nixon, though he may have had an idea of the game, was not a player; in fact he spent his evenings in camp in such improving pursuits as reading his Bible. One night, however, he looked in on the poker game in the Officers' Club and this evidently started a new train of thought.

One of his fellow officers, Jimmy Stewart, whom Nixon outranked as officer in charge of air transport at the base at Green Island by virtue of one month's seniority, has recalled

in *The Real Nixon* by Bela Kornitzer (1960), how he taught Nixon to play:

"One day I noticed Nick lost in his thoughts. He was seemingly concentrating on some problem. Finally he asked: 'Is there any sure way to win at poker?' I explained that I didn't know of a sure way to win, but that I had a theory for playing draw poker. It was that one must never stay in unless he knows he has every one at the table beaten at the time of the draw. Nick liked what I said. I gave him his first lessons. We played two-handed poker without money for four or five days, until he learned the various plays. Soon his playing became tops. He never raised unless he was convinced he had the best hand."

In the next two months, Nixon won \$6,000. Every successful player has to go through his initiation to the game. Once upon a time it was in the colourful setting of frontier saloons, more likely nowadays it begins in college; Eisenhower learned even younger, but he was too nice to win off his fellow officers.

Nixon was lucky, right at the start, to find a man prepared to ground him so carefully; but he deserved full marks for taking the trouble to learn in this way. He took the game very seriously, even if it was a "friendly" game, always tossing his winning hands in the air and discarding and mixing them up if he won the pot unseen, so as to avoid giving his game away. Clearly, he learned not just what the "rules" or percentages are, but that sense of their limitations that teaches a good player when to ignore them and, if necessary, turn them inside out.

Another friend who served with him in the Pacific, James U. Adams, went so far as to declare that "Nick was as good a poker player as, if not better than, anyone we had ever seen. He played a quiet game, but wasn't afraid of taking chances. He wasn't afraid of running a bluff."

Udall observed that, watching him closely, his fellow officers prophesied that he would succeed in whatever civilian career he might choose. That he would become President, however, did not show, presumably, in the cards.

Why did Nixon pass over the traditional Quaker objections to gambling? The explanation given is that he needed the money. He improved his poker to such an extent that he won "a sizable amount." How much money there was in those games we don't know. But he did tell Stewart that poker laid the foundations of his political career, because his winnings enabled him to finance his campaign against Congressman Jerry Voorhis.

Later on, from the eminence of the Vice Presidency, Nixon deprecated his talent for poker. Dr. Albert Upton, his former drama coach at Whittier College, California, was convinced that a man who couldn't hold a hand in a first-class poker game was not fit to be President of the United States. Nixon's reply, when the question was put whether he agreed with this prescription, was rather too modest: "I believe my ability in this field is somewhat exaggerated," he declared. "I was fairly successful playing poker overseas. During the lull in the bombardments, when we didn't

have anything else to do, men from the various neighbouring islands would get together in the evenings for games and it wasn't always poker."

He added that he had played only once since becoming Vice President and on that occasion "just broke even." "Just breaking even" is the habitual language of a winner disguising for one reason or another his success. As a politician, indeed like most winners, Nixon became extremely coy when pressed about figures.

A severe but judicious summing up comes from Garry Willis's *Nixon's Agony* (1970): "After the war he gave up poker entirely. It had served its purpose. The essential Nixon traits are all here. First, the justification. 'He needed the money.' To some men it would seem wrong to be playing for anything but amusement—or at least to be playing without amusement. But for Nixon, the 'self-improving' note is a moral necessity. And if you are going to do anything at all, you should make it useful; the Devil's playground can become the saint's joyless field of exercise. It helps, watching Nixon's 'ruthless', singlemindedness when bigger pots have been at stake, to remember those poker days."

Or to bring the scene more up to date, to his resignation as President in 1974, Nixon should have remembered the principles he used to uphold: never to stay in the pot unless he had everyone beaten before the draw, never to raise unless convinced he had the best hand.

The Watergate cover-up turned into a poker game on a national scale. It was, in another technique of negotia-

tion, because it employed skills akin to poker, is instructive. Khrushchev based his action, placing nuclear missile sites in Cuba, on a misreading of President Kennedy's character from the previous "game". At their summit meeting in Vienna, Khrushchev formed the conclusion that Kennedy was so young and inexperienced that he was not a man to be taken seriously. (Was it Mort Sahl who characterized the occasion by Kennedy asking Khrushchev, "Can I have the keys to the car, Dad?")

Khrushchev's motives in constructing missile sites in Cuba may or may not have been justified politically by fraternal support for a small country threatened by a capitalist superpower; what is clear is that his confidence that he could deceive the Americans about his purpose, and then get away with it once they found out, was founded on his "winning" the Vienna summit in terms of prestige and authority. The effect of putting missile sites 90 miles off the coast of Florida was, like a sudden wild raise, to upset totally the nuclear balance of power. It was a misreading of the superpower game as well as a miscalculation of Kennedy's character.

According to Nixon's *Six Crises* (1962): "There is no doubt but that Khrushchev would have been a superb poker player. First, he is out to win. Second, like any good poker player, he plans ahead so that he can win the big pots. He likes to bluff, but he knows that if you bluff on small pots and fail consistently to produce the cards, you must expect your opponent to call your bluff on the big pots."

Nixon was arguing that this was why the two small islands of Quemoy and Matsu, and all the other peripheral areas "were so important" in the poker game of world politics. It seems a fair reading of Khrushchev's approach in October 1962 that he believed he had won the previous pots.

When the U.S. reconnaissance planes spotted the missile sites, it was obvious to Kennedy that the United States could not tolerate such a transformation in the East-West balance. The new situation would put America in a position of severe disadvantage at the diplomatic level and threatened, quite literally, to wipe its cities out of existence. The question was: How to react? It would have been easy to "win" as Kennedy's chiefs of staff urged, by striking immediately at the missile sites. But the risk was that an act of such violence might trigger off retaliation, in Berlin or elsewhere, which would not merely put the western alliance at risk but have incalculable consequences for the peace of the whole world—in short, blow up the game. If any other tactic could be found, the President (as a prudent player) wanted to safeguard the national interest in a way that would prevent the superpower balance from being shattered. The top brass could not see that the game as a whole was far more important than the hand itself, or, rather, that how the hand was won was what mattered.

As it happens, I have played in a few good games in Washington with one of the generals who had the wisdom to counsel a graduated response to the crisis, General David Shoup, Commandant of the Marine Corps at that time. Eventually, according to David Shoup's history of the Vietnam engagement, *The Best and the Brightest* (1972), Shoup became Kennedy's favourite general.

Shoup was opposed to the invasion of Cuba, and would do a remarkable display with maps when the subject of Cuba and he took an overlay of Cuba and placed it over the map of the United States. To everybody's surprise, Cuba was not a small island along the lines of, say, Long Island. It was about 800 miles long and seemed to stretch from New York to Chicago. Then he took another overlay, with a red dot, and placed it over the map of Cuba. "What's that?" someone asked him. "That, gentlemen, represents the size of the island of Tarawa," said Shoup, who had won a Medal of Honour there, "and it took us three days and eighteen thousand Marines to take it."

From the outset, Shoup had no doubt that bombing the missile sites would be a great mistake. The way he put it to me (with no suggestion on my part of any parallel with poker) was revealing. "The Russians were bluffing. They didn't want a world war over Cuba. We had all the cards in our hand (in terms of missile capacity): there was no way they could win. Of course you might say the United States was bluffing too, because we didn't want a world war either. But we were bluffing with the best hand."

Kennedy's immediate need, therefore, was to devise a response that would allow Khrushchev to back off honourably, to fold his hand with dignity. It was not a matter of Kennedy's "winning" but of Khrushchev's "losing". Hence the idea of the blockade, or a quarantine, favoured by Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defence, and George Ball, Under Secretary of State, to prevent Russian ships from ferrying nuclear warheads or other material to Cuba.

In this opening phase of the crisis, Kennedy needed time to evaluate the situation in case the photographic evidence of missile sites was somehow mistaken or in case Khrushchev was bluffing, and time to

Continued on page 10

in three groups, making up about 700 singers from town and village, local societies all within 10 miles radius of Leith Hill.

Bridge A missing honour

enough to see Peking take over Macao if the latter so desired. The Chinese here are less brash and more sensitive than those of Hongkong, and we found a delightful memento in the shape of a collection of inscribed millifol stalks—used in Chinese divining of the future since ancient times. There are plenty of gilded carvings, old temple incense burners, and some Portuguese as well as Chinese antiquities.

Portuguese handicrafts can also be bought in a special shop, as can products of North Vietnam, North Korea, and of course China. Macao itself produces little for export except textiles and fireworks.

Something else which distinguishes Macao utterly from Hongkong is the cuisine. There is no good Portuguese restaurant in Hongkong, but the dignified old Pousada Inn on the waterfront near the centre of Macao is one of the most distinctive restaurants in the Far East. Thoroughly recommended are the two kinds of vegetable soup—green or minestrone-type—to which a few drops of olive oil may be added to lift the flavour. "African chicken", prawns, steak with mushrooms and caper sauce, baked fish and vegetables, and the Pousada are outstanding, and the house dessert consists of apple and banana fritters. Good Portuguese wines vary in price from \$15 to \$20 a bottle, but there are more expensive ones available too. Two people can enjoy kings for \$75.

The Solace is a beautiful haunt of "old Macan hands" is a café-type of restaurant with a decent Portuguese menu, but not in the same class as the other places. The "Velvet Vite" is down, and the service there is slack.

Naturally there is Cantonese food in abundance, and the Jardim de Jade in the city centre serves a good Chinese meal to the accompaniment of the clatter of makhjong tiles.

A graceful new road-bridge spanning the shallow harbour between the Macao peninsula and Taipa Island, from where a causeway leads to the simple and delightfully peaceful island of Coloane (20 minutes by bus from central Macao). Here you can spend a whole day walking among the Chinese farms and along the beach, or you can bring a cold drink and a snack in the village square near the diminutive but charming Roman Catholic church. You can still be back in Macao in time to catch a hydrofoil, or spend an evening watching telly on the beach. However, if you are addicted or very optimistic—go gambling at one of the several casinos.

There is no entrance fee or formality at the big casino in the garish Hotel Lisboa, and without spending a dollar you can watch little old Chinese gamblers throw down notes and chips with the equivalent of \$60 a note, or haggard systems-operators making jottings in their notebooks. To my mind, it is a squallid pastime, but there is plenty else in Macao to divert one from it.

David Bonavia

Edward Maver

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After 30 years, the diary of a dead Jewish girl is as poignant as ever

How Anne Frank's father has made sure that the world will not forget

In the garden of the Swiss house are four rose bushes of a species cultivated in memory of Anne Frank. "We had five, but one died."

Otto Frank rested. He had just answered 19 letters written by a class of Dutch school-children after their visit to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. "Every day we have emotion," he said. At 87, he still feels that his is the task of replying to each inquiry and wish of goodwill, of fulfilling the sense of mission contained in the poignant words of his daughter's diary. He alone survived which the Frank family spent in Amsterdam, and their subsequent humiliations in Nazi concentration camps.

He now lives in Basel, with his second wife, Edith. They had been near neighbours in Amsterdam before the war, and were reunited in rather macabre circumstances after it, at a station in Galicia, Poland, both on their way back from Auschwitz. They married eight years later. "My wife understands it all," said Mr Frank. "She lost a son and husband in the war."

In fact Mrs Frank remembers Anne as a childhood friend of her own daughter, seeing them play on the street together. "I only met Anne once," she said. "I was at the dressmaker's when a young girl walked in alone. She only tried on one dress, and told the dressmaker to and to both giddy and kept in check as she read and absorbed. She knew exactly what she wanted."

Otto Frank's own memory of Anne is of an extrovert and fun-loving girl whose liveliness had to be both guided and kept in check as she read and absorbed. She showed little propensity for academic work. When Anne's diary, retrieved by family friends from among the footmarks of the Gestapo, was returned to him after the war, it was not one of revelation. "It surprised me very profoundly," he said. "I would

never have believed how deeply Anne thought, and how she kept her thoughts to herself—never, never."

I never knew she cared about things, like God, for instance. She didn't show any feeling for religion. Margot (Anne's elder sister) showed an interest, but Anne never did. She never had a real Jewish education."

When the diary was eventually published after the war, the sister of Mrs van Daan, one of those in hiding with the Franks, whom Anne portrays in a humorous and slightly uncharitable light, told Mr Frank that no one could have given a better description of her sister than Anne did.

"We knew Anne had a gift of observation," said Mr Frank. "If we went for a visit somewhere, Anne could tell you afterwards how everyone was dressed and what they were doing. But the rest we didn't know."

Mr Frank too conceals his feelings. He is alert and active, and speaks with young enthusiasm. His brown eyes alone tell of the suffering of returning to Amsterdam after the war to pick up the remnants of a business, and a life.

At first he was reluctant to have the diary published, until friends pointed out that Anne expressed the wish in her writings that it should be. Now the original manuscript is kept in a bank vault in Basel. Upon Mr Frank's death it will take its place alongside less celebrated testaments at the Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation, in Amsterdam. The original diary reflects the child's mind, and not the adult's. The neatly written diary entries and stories are meticulously indexed and dated, and she also devised a secret writing code which she never had the opportunity to put into use. It was a private occupation, said Mr Frank. "She would say: Daddy, please see nobody comes into my room." The letters which Otto Frank

still receives daily testify to the world-wide impact and influence that the diary has had—to the fact that Anne's voice still speaks. It has inspired artists from Chaplin to Yevgeny, and many more people like the American professor who was moved to write a folio of poems after visiting the house in Amsterdam. He had never written poetry before, and suspected he never would again.

Just as many people see Anne as a symbol of the less personalized sufferings of millions of Jews at the hands of the Nazis, Otto Frank sees the Anne Frank Foundation in Amsterdam as bearer of the human ideal for which she stood. The foundation, which obtains much of its revenue from visitors to the house on Prinsengracht, runs courses and discussion groups for young people with the aim of eradicating anti-Semitism. "We want to make people aware of their own prejudices, which they often don't realize, and help them towards self-discovery," said Mr Frank. "To show there is still discrimination which must be overcome."

An activist by nature and experience, Otto Frank still makes regular visits to Amsterdam. "I am here as much as possible with the general movement to make sure it keeps the sense of mission which is in Anne's book," he said. He was recently angered by a pamphlet which the foundation had prepared to launch an exhibition against discrimination. "It never once used the phrase 'anti-Semitism', I demanded that it be rewritten."

Mr Frank still sees too much evidence of anti-Semitism in Europe. He has never set foot since the war in Germany, where he was born, and his wife has never returned, for the same reason, to her native Austria. They are sceptical of the sincerity of Europe's religious tolerance. Mr Frank feels that the Jewish identity is real rather than religious sense: he prefers to remain a member of a liberal synagogue in Amsterdam than join the more orthodox community in Basel. He has more reason than most though for feeling bitterness, and a trace of it shows through his measured tone when he talks of anti-Semitism, as if of a sub-human species. It is Mr Frank's capacity to keep his feelings to himself, and his calmness, which perhaps enabled his family to maintain its balance during the two oppressive years in hiding from the Gestapo and its Dutch agents. It is the same tendency which has concealed the last mystery surrounding the ordeal chronicled by Anne: who betrayed the Franks?

Otto Frank is reticent. "A man telephoned the police—that we knew from the man who arrested us. But we have no evidence, and if there is no evidence you are not allowed to accuse anybody."



Mr Otto Frank with the "Golden Pen Award" he received for one million paperback sales of "The Diary of Anne Frank".

Anne writes in her diary of a series of break-ins at the warehouse below the family's hiding place by burglars who "seem to take a delight in honouring Kolen & Co with their visits". One burglary, however, four months before the family's arrest, was different from the others. The intruder was disturbed by Mr van Daan, one of the refugees in the hideout, who was making his regular evening round of the office adjoining the warehouse. There were no signs of the lock having been forced, suggesting that the thief, who left the door open on his departure, had a skeleton key.

"He must have crept into the house quite easily," writes Anne, "and closed the door behind him, hidden himself when disturbed by Mr van Daan, and when he departed

fled with his spoils leaving the door open in his haste. Who can have our key? Why didn't the thief go to the warehouse? Might it be one of our own warehousemen, and would he perhaps betray us, since he certainly heard van Daan and perhaps even saw him?" Anne's suspicion of the warehouseman, known as "M", was shared by some of the family friends who still worked for Mr Frank's old firm and brought food to the hideout. Was it then the warehouseman who deprived Otto Frank of a family and the world of a young author of talent? "I have my suspicions," said Mr Frank with understatement in his voice but not in his eyes. "I don't even know if he is still alive."

Peter Godfrey

George Hutchinson

PR must be a non-starter for Britain

Unremarked—as I suspect—by the bulk of the electorate, a new class of legislator is now in embryo. In little more than a year, 81 British citizens are due to take their seats in the European Parliament, becoming founder-members of yet another (and well rewarded) élite. There is no shortage of aspirants. If the streets are not exactly crowded with would-be candidates, they are still pretty numerous, as you might imagine in an era when the financial attractions of public service, especially within the EEC, are so alluring.

What is lacking is not the will or desire to serve, but the grasp of the constituency boundaries have not been determined. Nor has the method of election. Unless we move quickly after the coming Commons debate on the subject, it begins when the House reassembles next week, we shall be in danger of falling behind and even conceivably of failing to fulfil our commitment at the right time.

Once authorized by Parliament, the Boundaries Commission can no doubt act with fair speed and need not expect obstruction. It is the system of election that gives rise to most dispute, not only between parties but within them.

Naturally enough, the advocates of proportional representation see a great opportunity here to make their case. By establishing the claims of PR in this field, they could hope to extend them to our own parliamentary elections. Hence the interest (the self-interest) of the Liberal Party, who mention the National Front.

Proportional representation has various forms, some more complicated than others. It seems to me, however, that none is quite so simple as the one I have just mentioned, which is the considerable merit of being easily understood and unfavourably returns the person who secures the largest number of votes.

Of course I know what is "wrong" with it, and you need not tell me the obvious. But I also know what is right about it in a rough sort of way—and that is perhaps as much as we can reasonably aspire to in an imperfect world. It was Mr Enoch Powell, I think, who said that

nothing is ever "fair", and (as usually) he was quite right. It is not in the human condition to attain perfection. Rough justice is probably as much as we can hope for.

For my part, I should be very surprised if the Government and the House of Commons were to decide in favour of proportional representation in the election to the so-called European Parliament. When it is not necessary to change, it is necessary to stay put, said Lord Evers. That is not a bad precept, and on this occasion it is more than likely to be upheld.

Our established method of election has returned many good members of Parliament over the generations. There is a lot to be said for maintaining it. "First past the post" is an acceptable principle which we would be rash to abandon for an unfamiliar, even alien, system, sometimes of Byzantine complexity, calculated to confuse and disturb the electorate.

On a strictly partisan consideration, the two great parties would, of course, be crazy to promote the innovation. Once adopted in respect of the European Parliament, it might be applied to our own before long, and to local government elections as well.

One effect of this would be to save the Liberals, rescuing them from their probable eclipse as a parliamentary force. That would be a good thing. But if I were a party manager, Labour or Conservative, I might think differently, that is to say less generously.

Added to, and utterly deplorable—result might be to open the door to the National Front. That we cannot afford. It would be a poor day for Britain if a member of the National Front were ever to occupy a seat in the House of Commons. This odious movement is becoming increasingly dangerous and must be checked.

On balance, then, it may seem that PR is best avoided. While doing some justice to the Liberal's introduction might also saddle us with a number of most unwelcome consequences. To adapt Lord Falkland, we should leave well alone. It was Mr Enoch Powell, I think, who said that

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Preserving the idea of a Celtic paradise in Avalon

Tony Roberts discourages those who are setting off for foreign holy places. "Delphi?" he demands. "What do you want to go to Delphi for? Everyone wants to go to wonderful bloody Delphi—but we've got our own Delphi right here in Britain."

It is a holy place rich with legends of fairies, the Druids and King Arthur. It is a pagan place and stronghold of early Christians. It is a magnet to old-fashioned mystics and disturbed hippies. It has had its abbey and its pop festival. It is on the junction of the A39 and the A361. It is represented at the Festival of Mind and Body (twice a year at the Empire Hall, Olympia on Tuesday) by stand number 49, which features a handful of mystically oriented thinkers and designers known collectively as "The Glastonbury Group".

Tony Roberts has long wanted to write a book about Glastonbury. Not having the time, he settled for writing one chapter and asking 11 like-minded thinkers to make up the rest, and then settling down to producing the entire run within his own four walls, with the exception of the cover, some of the plates and the binding, all of which came from printers within walking distance of his South London home.

As the chapters arrived from contributors, he edited and added footnotes, whereupon his wife typed them on to stencils and ran off 250 copies of every page of this first, limited, edition. The house was submerged beneath piles of pages, which all had to be collated before binding. His mother helped here. Finally, they climbed into their car and delivered copies to booksellers. Fourteen months after conceiving the idea, *Zodiac House* (in Mr and Mrs Roberts) published a very presentable Glastonbury—*Ancient Avalon, New Jerusalem* (£2.70) at the end of last year.

Now Rider, part of the Hutchinson group, have decided to bring out their own edition, expanded and with an "afterword" by Colin Wilson, who feels that "books of this sort should be the right of as imaginative writers rather than scientists", but points out that "crack" subjects have a habit of acquiring scientific backing. Until the Rider edition appears next year, the only copies available are those produced in a second home-made format by the Roberts family in time for the Festival of Mind and Body.

Not only is this a do-it-yourself book, it is also, as far as conventional historians are concerned, a do-it-yourself framework of knowledge. A 36-year-old newspaper librarian, Tony Roberts claims "the streets" as one of his formative educational influences, and sets more store by mystical vibrations than scholarly references. His fellow-writers include his wife, who is a secretary in a computer company, an American ballistics expert for NASA

and John Michell, author of *The Flying Saucer Vision* and *The View Over Atlantis*.

None of them is likely to end up as an Oxford professor or a Reith lecturer. But all of them represent an underground orthodox, which holds that the pagan strengths of the place, mystic and physical powers, expressed in the legends of Druids, fairies, Joseph of Arimathea's visit, and the Celtic paradise of Avalon. Christianity, the theory goes, first fed off and then set on the pagan strengths of the place, which will eventually triumph and be recognized as, in the words of Blake (believed to have had Glastonbury firmly in mind), "Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land". The evidence consists of some local legends, the mound of Glastonbury Tor and the Abbey with its subterranean tunnels; there are also reports of "vibrations", similar to the electric shocks reported by Tony and others as emanating from an ancient stone.

For the most spectacular evidence, we turn to a Mrs Maltwood, who 50 years ago noticed from the map the signs of the zodiac etched on to the surrounding landscape. The shapes were there for all to see, just like Stonehenge but less obvious; old roads, hills, and streams sketched out patterns of not only Libra, Aquarius and other zodiac symbols, but also a Hound, his tail reaching the spot on the map marked "Wagg".

This traditional guardian of the underworld was joined by another, the discovery of Janet Roberts, the A39 making his back, this dog is six miles from head to paw. The signs of the zodiac were, according to Mrs Maltwood, in the same relationship on the ground as the constellations they represented were in the heavens.

"The zodiac," says Tony, "are divine extrusions by the gods in the natural form of the ground. When the rough effigies were already formed, men recognized and made clear the shape, sculpting the landscape. It wasn't just an exercise in engineering for nothing; it was a physical theology." The purpose of this, he doesn't know, but the urge to study its mysteries makes Glastonbury for him an English Mecca which may one day reveal its secrets.

Although one farmer once whispered that the hills on his land were man-made, most of the locals are far from being subscribers to these theories. What the most savage critic could say is that Tony is reviving the old legends and putting a kind of preservation order on quaint local beliefs. Who knows, he may one day join them, leaving a faint folk memory of a man who swept down from the East, produced a book by superhuman feats of endurance, and disappeared for ever down the A39.

Jonathan Sale

Why Paul Klee's son almost lost his inheritance

Gunter Felix Klee, only child of the painter Paul Klee, was somewhere in Czechoslovakia on May 1, 1945, when he heard that Hitler was dead. He and an NCO of equally anti-Nazi views celebrated with a litre of vodka, they had picked up. Suspicious inquirers were told they were celebrating a birthday.

When he heard a week later that the war was over, Gunter Klee threw his rifle into a stream and headed westward on foot. After evading death at the hands of Czech partisans by assuring them in French he was an Alsatian pressed into the Wehrmacht, he found himself in a prisoner of war camp run by the Russians. The German put in charge by the Russians was a certain Herr Willy Stoph, who has been Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic since 1964.

"He behaved impeccably," Herr Klee recalled when we met at the Fischer Fine Art Gallery, to whose current exhibition of German art from 1910 to 1939 he has lent some of his father's works.

To talk to Herr Klee is to

be reminded afresh what a complex experience it was to be a cultured German before, during and after the Second World War.

Having chosen, with his father's encouragement and despite great gifts as an artist and musician, to become a stage producer, he found that his finest years were from 1941 to 1943 at the city theatre in Würzburg, Bavaria. Not only was he the director of the theatre, but there were very few Nazis in that consciously Roman Catholic city. The Gauleiter had singularly little hold there, Herr Klee recalled, largely because he had the badge to name his dog after a treasured holy relic. "Even though I'm a Protestant, my heart was with the Catholics, who reacted with absolute revulsion," he said.

On September 1, 1944, Goebbels ordered all theatres to be closed, and Herr Klee, despite having been born with one unseeing eye, had to become a soldier. "Then began my heroic time," he says with massive irony. "I was given the full three-month heavy artillery

training, as if the war was going to last for another 30 years." And so off to Czechoslovakia and Poland, part of the way back in retreat—and into Soviet captivity.

The ensuing months were, he concedes, a very bad time. Typhus broke out at the first camp. There was a month's transit in Hungary, where he had severe stomach trouble, then a fortnight's train journey to the Caucasus, where he nearly died of pneumonia (thousands of his fellow prisoners did die). But his life was saved when a Russian woman doctor sent him and a handful of others to hospital. In August 1946, after a few months in the Ukraine, he was released and allowed to return to Germany.

His wife and son, to whom he had succeeded in getting one letter from captivity through the Red Cross, were living near Würzburg, where their house had been destroyed by Allied bombs. His mother was in Switzerland, where Paul Klee had died in 1940, aged 60, after a painful illness. When his mother heard of her son's safe

return to what had become the American zone, she celebrated, and died of a stroke two days later. Quite how it happened Herr Klee never discovered.

Her death left him in an appalling situation, since the entire family collection of some 4,000 works by his father was now effectively without an owner. Worse, they were soon appropriated by a Swiss in Bern to whom he and his mother had, as a precaution against a German invasion, entrusted the family collection, which he recognized, retained 2,400 drawings, 100 etchings, 200 watercolours, and 40 paintings, administered by the museum.

The burden of being the son of a famous father sits lightly on Felix Klee. He is now 69, and has been a Swiss subject since 1960, a status his father sought after being reviled by the Nazis and settling in Bern, not to be robbed of it by death.

Herr Klee can look back on a life steeped in the splendours and miseries of German culture: early childhood in Munich; adolescence in the heady, early days of the

Bauhaus in Weimar; and later in Dessau, where he took his first job as an assistant stage manager.

There followed a series of theatre jobs, from which after the Nazi breakthrough in 1933 he constantly had to move for political reasons. First he went to Coburg, then Breslau, where he met his wife, a Bulgarian opera singer; from Düsseldorf to the safety of Ulm, where he was employed for a year with the youthful but already prodigious Karajan; Wilhelmshafen, Göttingen and, finally, Würzburg.

Since his retirement from Bern radio four years ago, he has devoted much of his time to his inheritance, with some help from his son, who is 31 and who paints under a pseudonym. He has sold very little, but lives quite comfortably with the help of royalties from publications and the reproduction of his father's work. He recalls his father as strict but affectionate, and looks back on his wandering years with much laughter as well as sorrow over the tragedies of the Third Reich.

Roger Berthoud

Sportsview

Water 'baby' who wants to beat the world at Moscow



Cheryl Brazendale is a 5ft 5in tall, slim, strikingly attractive brunette from Blackpool whose recent exploits in the swimming pool have sent the sporting statisticians scurrying to their dustiest copies of the *Swimming Times* for details of the last Englishwoman to hold national records for all the competitive freestyle distances at the same time. So far they have not come up with an answer.

Miss Brazendale also happens to be a mere two months into her fifteenth year, a fact which is belied more by her physical appearance than by her aquatic achievements, for swimming, with its great emphasis on technique and fitness rather than sheer strength, is particularly suited to the spawning of youthful champions.

When we spoke earlier this week before her departure for Holland and the Six Nations Tournament today and tomorrow, it was apparent that the publicity following her three days of record-breaking last weekend had taken its toll. She was as unsettled and apprehensive as her conversation was muted and monosyllabic. She loosened up considerably, however, after we had placed her performances in an international perspective, for clearly she is perturbed by what she imagines the public may expect of her.

"I'd love to beat them all—

the East Germans, the Austrians and the Americans, but I've a long way to go. My times really only came down last year, although I've been training with my coach, Frank Naylor, since I was 10, and it's all due to him."

"He convinced me I could be the first to break 60 for the 100 metres at the National last year, and that really started it. We do about 10,000 yards a day, in the morning and evening. I like the training, but not when I do bad times and Frank shouts at me. He really blows his top. I get really mad and feel like hitting him, and on the next repetition (timed swim) I say 'I hate him, I hate him' as each hand goes into the water."

Although such a training atmosphere may seem a little fraught to the layman, it is by no means unusual, within the tough discipline of athletic preparation, where love-hate relationships are the norm rather than the exception.

"Frank Naylor has done an excellent job with Cheryl," says Coach of the Year and former British Olympic coach Hamilton Bland, who knows them both very well. "He is very much a father figure to Cheryl, particularly since the death of her grandfather who with his wife, had looked after her as she was a baby. We coaches are all hard on our swimmers, but no coach can 'make swimmers work'. They must want to do it, and invariably they drive themselves to the limit as much for the coach as for themselves."

"Cheryl is a good pupil. She doesn't say too much, but she listens well. Her pacing was not too good in the heats last

weekend, but she followed in instructions exactly in the final. It takes a lot of character to come third or fourth in a top class international field. So many inexperienced swimmers would throw in the towel when they lost touch with the leaders."

Naylor's own performance in taking his young pupil to the forefront of British swimming is itself exceptional in that he began coaching only a few years ago, but he has learned the hard way.

"In a way it's easy with Cheryl because she follows naturally into the two-beam front crawl technique which has brought her success and she also wants to work hard," he says.

"We use the stopwatch a great deal and I don't believe in taking any nonsense. She knows who the boss is, although outside the pool she treats her as one of the family. I just hope that she will not be affected too much by the pressures which domestic success brings."

Cheryl needs to improve about 5 per cent on all distances to be a genuinely world-class performer. But she has been training for only three years, and is still constantly improving. We should expect little from her at this year's European Championships, significant racing in the world's top 25 newsworthy (she is currently at ranked), and then perhaps at some time in the future she may have something to say forward to at the Moscow Olympic Games which she will reach at the near perfect use of her own powers.

Athole Shi...



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MR CARTER'S CAUTION

President Carter's decision not to press ahead with his proposals to cut personal and corporate taxation in the United States may well prove to be one of those decisions, taken early in a period of office, which will give a particular character to the whole of his administration. The relief with which the decision has been greeted by the financial markets is a measure of the unease with which the President's utterances on economic subjects have been viewed in those quarters. The President was faced with the classic dilemma of current economic policy, the issue of whether priority should be given to reducing unemployment or to containing inflation. In his election campaign and during his early weeks in office the rhetoric was clearly in favour of running the risks on the side of inflation. At the first actual crisis, however, the President has clearly decided to jump safe.

Unquestionably, political factors have played a major part in the President's decision to eat his promises of a \$50 rebate for each tax-payer. In part these have been of the institutional kind. It has always been difficult for any administration to make fiscal adjustments to the American economy. Taxation and expenditure changes in either direction have proved in the past difficult to get through the Congress in the form, of the amount, or with the timing that the President of the day has thought wise. In this case the prospect of a long, possibly losing battle with the Senate will have served to reinforce the views within his inner circle of economic advisers

which have been opposed to the taxation policy. The fuller details of the President's economic thinking, revealed yesterday in his public remarks on inflation, energy, prices and incomes will also have had the effect of reassuring his economic advisers. The very weak performance of the dollar in foreign exchange markets this year has been the tangible evidence of the psychological impact of the Carter undertakings that he would "get America back to work".

In the short term there will doubtless be some disappointment in this country and in others facing prolonged economic difficulties that the United States contribution to a higher level of world trade will be, as a result, somewhat lower. In the longer run, however, the most damaging development of all for the western industrial world would be an acceleration of the rate of inflation in the United States. That would be a further destabilization of the system from which we should all suffer for a decade or more.

It cannot, however, be denied that the changed emphasis of American policy is the last and most important of a series of events, which substantially alter the basis on which the world economic summit at Downing Street next month will be held. The hope of many, not least the British Government, was that the Downing Street meetings would go far towards creating a framework of international economic cooperation in which the stronger economies undertook further economic expansion in order to feed the industrial world more firmly out of recession and to

provide the basis on which countries in balance of payments deficit could improve their position. Without some such action, a better balance between the economic performances of the major industrial countries is not possible, for in the system as a whole one country's surplus must necessarily be another country's deficit.

Each of the three countries in the best position to play such an expansionist role, if it chose, West Germany, the United States and Japan, now looks increasingly unprepared to make it the basis of its own domestic economic policy. The determination to maintain resistance to inflation as the overriding priority evidently remains the strongest in the case of Germany. The impact on the rest of the world of the German economic recovery will be even less helpful in the sense that it seems certain once again to be led not by growth of domestic demand, but by a net increase in exports, thus increasing deficits in the system elsewhere.

Against this background the Downing Street summit will need to concentrate on two aspects of international economic policy. The first is how, in the absence of any substantial general growth in world economic activity, the financing problems of the deficit industrial countries can be acceptably met and a slide into beggar-my-neighbour protectionism avoided. The second is the problem of those parts of the developing world which do not have oil and which have therefore been effectively bankrupted by the recent shift in energy costs.

IF NO CONFERENCE, A REFERENDUM

Dr Owen's visit to Africa would have been incomplete if he had not added Rhodesia to the itinerary. He provisionally included it at the outset, the proviso being that Mr Smith's reactions in South Africa should be reasonably encouraging. Apparently Dr Owen felt they were, and the two men are meeting again in Salisbury. Mr Smith has his own political fish to fry by getting the British Foreign Secretary to Rhodesia, and, typically, after the visit was announced, he told Rhodesians that they should not expect much of it. He has thus hedged all bets, but Dr Owen should by now know what to expect from his adversary.

What is important is that Dr Owen should see as many Rhodesians other than Mr Smith as possible, notably the rival ministers and Rhodesian Front bosses who surround him, the non-Front white leaders, and as many African spokesmen of the rival black factions as time allows. It is his business to assess the divisions in Rhodesia.

Originally Dr Owen's visit was described as a fact-finding one. Instead he has gone to try out a specific idea: a conference to work out a constitution for an independent Zimbabwe under majority rule, such a constitution to come into effect by Act of Parliament in 1978 as agreed by the Africans in Geneva. But apparently the mechanism for the actual transfer of power, which destroyed the Geneva conference, will not be discussed. This plan sounds like the American formula "if we had some eggs we could have had some eggs". However, if a minister is making a tour to assess the disputants' positions, it may be better to do so by discussing a proposal than talking in a vacuum.

If not too disillusioned by Geneva the Africans might be attracted by Dr Owen's idea in the hope that, as Britain and the United States would co-sponsor it, they could claim that the sponsors were morally bound to enforce an agreed plan. This would imply enforcing a mechanism of transfer—the so-called interim stage. With this as their real goal the Africans might agree on the constitution *pro forma*.

The initial response has not been encouraging, though Dr Owen has rightly refused to sound discouraged. But on the record, Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo of the Patriotic Front backed by the black Presidents have told him that Zimbabwe can only get black rule by war; Mr Sithole has said a conference is a waste of time because Mr Smith cannot be coerced by it; and Bishop Muzorewa is still convinced that the right step is a referendum on his terms under Anglo-American aegis. The frontline presidents have not rejected the conference, but they are meeting in Luanda on priority business for stepping up the guerrilla offensive, and strengthening the Patriotic Front and its claims on the blacks inside Rhodesia.

So, even if a conference could be convened in a new atmosphere, the war goes on. There is now no sign that South Africa will again cut off supplies, and therefore there will be no pressure other than that which the guerrillas can exert on the Rhodesian Front to give in. Mr Smith has indicated that he is prepared to look at his own position on the Kissinger pack-

age again—everyone else, as he puts it, having rehedged. But that commits him to nothing. The major influence on the course of diplomacy remains the war, just as Mr Mugabe asserts—though it does not follow that Mr Mugabe will win it.

The conference plan has attractions for Mr Smith, inasmuch as it keeps him centre stage, and so gives his own doubters and critics a sense that a peaceful settlement is still possible—which might lessen the rate of white emigration. It has also an advantage for Dr Owen: it demonstrates that he has done his utmost with the situation bequeathed to him by Dr Kissinger and Mr Ivor Richard. If some sort of conference—or series such as is vaguely hinted at—does come off, at least the appearance of negotiation will remain, even if the guns talk more decisively.

If it does not come off, it may then be open to Dr Owen to look again at the possibility that has been ruled out by the British government—a referendum to select a black leader. It has been ruled out because the British and Americans do not want to clash with the frontline Presidents who reject Bishop Muzorewa. Perhaps at this stage they should not. But a beginning has to be made with a process that would produce a black team endowed with an authority which would compel Mr Smith to negotiate rather than prevaricate. Events have gone so far that even the emergence of such a black authority would not end the fighting. Yet it alone will produce an alternative to fighting, and so set political forces in motion to end it.

preventing an egg from cracking when boiled is to prick the shell at the larger end—if the smaller end is pierced, the egg-white tends to escape during cooking. I have not found other suggested preventive measures such as the water—variable in efficacy to this. Yours faithfully, JENNIFER FELLOWS, 10A Flaxstead Road, Cambridge.

100 years immunity

From Mr C. C. Aronsfeld
Sir, I am a Jewish student of Anglo-Jewish history. In the course of my studies I came across a book on Anglo-Jewry written by a German Nazi who published it in 1943. The book was the fruit of extensive research carried on in London between 1934 and 1939. It is of course written from an anti-semitic angle and it requires a thorough critical analysis which I am hoping to undertake.

For this purpose I shall also have to consider the person of the author (who wrote under a pseudonym). I know a good deal about him, and a relevant fact in this context is that he was expelled from this country in May 1939. I am a naturally anxious person, and I am hoping to undertake a study of the records relating to people like this German Nazi are "closed to public inspection for a period of 100 years by an order under Section 5(1) of the Public Records Act 1958". I should like to query this rule if (as appears) it admits of no exception. Britons go unprotected after 30 years when documents about them are published. War then, then, for foreigners enjoy a century of immunity—even when an exception, under due safeguards, can be justified by a demonstrably legitimate interest? Yours faithfully, C. C. ARONSFELD, 19 Thurlby Close, Kenton Road, Harrow.

Compounding the felony

From Sir David Croom-Johnson
Sir, Your Agricultural Correspondent (The Times, April 4, page 14) writes of one minister "compounding the felony" of another minister. From its context, he really meant to say that the situation had been made worse and not (as he was actually saying) condoned.

The recent fashion (even to be met, Sir, in your own leading articles) of using the verb "to compound" in this entirely new sense of "to make worse" or "to increase" is one which I have so far failed to find in any dictionary. It may have had its origin in a misunderstanding of what is meant by "compound interest" where the interest is mixed or combined with the principal sum, but I do not know. It is jargon and not good English.

In the present instance it has led your correspondent into saying the opposite to what he intended. Yours sincerely, DAVID CROOM-JOHNSON, 28 Rutland Street, SW7, April 5.

Mettermich's journey

From Dr C. A. Macartney, FBA
Sir, Your second leader of today's date (April 12). Mettermich did not leave Vienna in a laundry basket. From his office in the Ballhausplatz he walked across on the morning of March 14 to the nearby palace of Count Ludwig Taaffe. Prince Karl Liechtenstein then provided him with a carriage, in which he was driven to the Prince's castle at Feldberg. The latter journey to England (for which Baron Rothschild paid) was uncomfortable, but not humiliating. Mettermich travelled by train, under a false passport. I have the honour to remain, etc, C. A. MACARTNEY, Hornbeams, Boars Hill, Oxford, April 12.

Federalism: the German model

From Mr Nevill Johnson
Sir, My colleague Lord Crowther-Muir returns to the theme (April 12) that devolution is the key to changing the whole system of government. On the form of devolution he suggests once more that "we have seen much to learn from the practice of West Germany". That may be so, but his first two recommendations do not suggest that he really grasps the substantial rule changes which would have to be made if anything like the German federal model were to be adopted—and I stress rule changes as opposed to re-jigging the machinery of government.

First, the Devolution Bill would not have to be modified in order to give a clearer definition of the powers devolved to Scotland and Wales. On the contrary, it would have to be amended to define the powers of the Westminster Parliament, i.e. those functions in respect of which Westminster would have exclusive powers or would be able to legislate for subsequent implementation by the provincial governments. On the German analogy only education, the structure of local government and police would remain as more or less autonomous areas of provincial "sovereignty".

With regard to his second recommendation there would be no need to worry much about Scottish, Welsh or English regional powers to tax. Instead we would need an apportionment system under which revenues would be shared out with some regard to the yield in the areas in which they were actually raised.

Only on the third recommendation, devolution all round, does the implied comparison with West Germany come near to the mark. Certainly a German constitutional lawyer could not envisage the work of different devolution schemes: the logic of a federal constitution requires application of the same principles for the distribution of powers to the whole national territory.

The key to understanding German federalism lies in two factors, to both of which I paid some attention in Research Paper No 1 prepared for the Kilbrandon Commission. One is the presence of a coherent public law structure, the other is the principle of a horizontal division of powers between law making (extensively) and law enforcement (extensively) at national, regional and local levels. The horizontal separation of responsibilities which ensures the dispersion of government activity which Lord Crowther-Muir so ardently recommends for the United Kingdom is inconceivable without the system of public law through which it is expressed. For a West German narrow specificity and the verbal redundancy of the Devolution Bill is inconceivable in what purports to be a "constitutional" measure. So, equally, is the notion of a pattern of constitutional relationships in which courts play no significant part as regulators.

The fact is that the exercise of power is dispersed, or devolved effectively in this patchy unless we are prepared to draft the relevant law differently. This means at a minimum enunciating principles more clearly, recognizing the necessity of arbitration by courts more frequently, and, in the present, reconciling ourselves to the idea that the government and Parliament in London do not always know best. We would all do well to forget the machinery of government for a while and concentrate instead on the fact that they cannot be changed, nothing else can be.

Yours faithfully, NEVILL JOHNSON, Nuffield College, Oxford, April 13.

Yugoslav succession

From the Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Sir, The remarks about Yugoslavia contained in Bernard Levin's article on 10 April (The Times, April 13), and the implication of the illustrations to it, are widely off the mark. President Tito of course remains a man of power, but to suggest that he holds "absolute power" reveals the theory and practice of Yugoslav political life as revealed by the remarks about the succession issue. The political philosophy embodied in the present Yugoslav system has a much broader base than the thoughts of one individual and his authorized interpreters. Once this fact is grasped, the issue of the succession to President Tito assumes lesser proportions, though no doubt many political difficulties will be involved. One individual's death, or even the death, no doubt the Yugoslav system and political philosophy will be continuously adapted, as in the past, to new circumstances. But whether or not we approve of the system, it has grown deep roots in Yugoslavia and is not just the ephemeral product of a brown or a red book.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, DUNCAN WILSON, The Master's Lodge, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, April 14.

Mebyon Kernow

From Mr Philip Sharp
Sir, Your report on the front page of your issue yesterday that an organization called Mebyon Kernow or Sons of Cornwall, who want home rule for the Cornish, have voted to take over the Cornish lands of the Prince of Wales and put them under the control of a Cornish Assembly. Having lived in Cornwall since 1936, I feel that it would be a great pity if the Cornish people, who have been given the impression that such crack-brained schemes represented the views of other than an insignificant minority of the people of Cornwall. Yours faithfully, PHILIP SHARP, St Mawes, Cornwall, April 13.

Devising a fair electoral system

From Mr Richard Holme
Sir, The nub of Mr Butt's argument against proportional representation for the Westminster Parliament (article, April 14) is that government policies should be susceptible to change "look line and sinker if they fail and if the electorate wishes".

But what constitutes failure and how are the electors' wishes to be ascertained? Must we assume that the 60 per cent plus of the electorate who vote for parties that don't win are defeated, and that their parties have "failed"? The obvious of the same attitude is that a "winning" party with under 40 per cent of the vote has a mandate to reverse the policies of its predecessor and implement its manifesto in total.

Thus "first past the post" voting leads the country by the nose along a very crooked path. Negotiation, compromise, and stability are achieved and partisanship rules the day. A proportional representation system on the other hand would simply ensure that only policies and governments supported by the majority of voters had any real chance of success.

This may be grey centrism to Mr Butt but British voters like the idea. In an ORC poll published last week 74 per cent said that it would be a good idea to have a new system of voting brought in "so that the number of seats a party wins in an election is in proportion to the number of votes it gets in an election". Only 13 per cent thought it was a bad idea.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD HOLME, Director, National Committee for Electoral Reform, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, SW1, April 15.

From Mr Tim Ruckhorne, MP for Leamington (Conservative)

Sir, It is ironic, yet appropriate, that Ronald Butt's advocacy of our present first-past-the-post system of election to Westminster in your paper today is faced by Lord Hailsham's clear and most specific letter pointing out the weaknesses of that system.

Where Ronald Butt argues for the presumed clarity of a simple yes/no vote by electors, Lord Hailsham points out how this leads to elective dictatorship. Can Ronald Butt have forgotten the fact that, in the 30 years of the electoral system, only 10 per cent of the electorate voted for our present Government?

As I have claimed before in your columns, choice at the hustings is no choice at all if it is not reflected in a Government which represents reasonably accurately the choice which has been made—a choice

Divorce procedures

From Mr Nicholas Tyndall

Sir, The Bishop of Durham (April 9) has reason to be concerned about present trends in divorce proceedings. However, his latest extension of the simplified procedure for undefended divorces reflects the inability of the courts since 1971 to apply the concept of the irrevocable breakdown of marriage on any criteria other than the opinion of the spouses concerned.

The old procedures in practice did not provide any safeguards for the quarter of a million adults divorcing each year, and it was very questionable whether the court setting was the best one in which to consider fully the interests of the children involved.

It is vitally important that the new procedures should enable adequate consideration of ancillary matters. In particular, time should be given to planning not only for the material provision for the children but also for the understanding of the complicated set of future relationships within which the ex-spouses and their children are likely to have to relate. And it is to be hoped that, with the removal of the critical role of appearance in court in front of a judge, more regard may be had by spouses to the potential help available from what should be a multidisciplinary team of solicitor, welfare officer

Aircraft noise

From Mr Kenneth Warren, MP for Hastings (Conservative)

Sir, The Chairman of the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council and others (letters, April 12), spoil a reasonable case against aircraft noise with bad evidence. Their diversion into comparisons between Heathrow, Amsterdam and Copenhagen, does not relevant because the difference in the demands for air transport at each, it was certainly surprising to find that the distinguished name of "Angus MacGeachy" (the Scottish editor) has "no major international gateway" after 35 years of service of Preswick in that role.

I cannot see the need to wait for some woolly sensible long-term aircraft strategy. Quicker engines are needed quickly. The technology to produce them exists, but airlines

Roots

From Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that ilk

Sir, Genealogists, while commiserating with Alex Haley on Mark Ottaway's pruning of his *Roots* in the *Times*, tell us that "The Kince" mostly live in the former kingdom of Baddibu, which begins about 20 miles up river from Joffure". To have got within 20 miles of his ancestral homeland, out of the whole vast continent of Africa, is an incredible feat.

However, Mr Haley is too modest. There's a mistaken tendency to think of black Africans as having no detectable history. His African heritage is not merely the primitive Fallen Eden (with predators feline and human) of the current TV film *Roots*. He's Markandine's forefathers were a great nation who traditionally invaded West Africa from the Sudan in the East on horseback about the 900s, and were known to Arab historians by the 1100s. Their Muslim empire of Mali west of the

Curbing football hooliganism

From the Secretary of The Magistrates' Association

Sir, Following disgraceful violence at a football match the Minister of State for Sport and Recreation was reported in your issue of April 13 to have criticized court decisions in a way that Ministers normally avoid because of the independence of the judiciary. He also said: "The use of detention and attendance centres seems to have more merit than adequate fines." People can only be punished for what they are proved to have done. Two of the defendants were charged and convicted under section 54 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 for using insulting words, for which the maximum fine is £20 which was imposed. The other defendants were charged with criminal damage under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and each fined £40 and appropriate compensation.

The Minister is right, however. Detention and attendance centres should be used more in this connexion. Why are they not? Courts must first ascertain whether places are available in the hard pressed detention centres and only then do they commit young men there. If the courts use their legal power to send them willy-nilly, the Home Office has threatened to withdraw the availability of detention centres from such courts. In any case the children and young persons (Act 1969) empowered the Home Secretary to abolish them, though unfortunately the need makes this quite impractical. However, the last Home Secretary did his best by increasing from one half to half the number of places (remission (save for serious misconduct) for 14-17 year olds in junior detention centres).

Attendance centres were set up under the Criminal Justice Act 1948. In the 29 years since then some 60 junior attendance centres (for those aged 14-17) have been set up in England and Wales and only two senior attendance centres (for those aged 17-21). This Association has long urged that more senior attendance centres should be established as a means of occupying football hooligans on subsequent Saturdays. As long ago as October 1972 our Annual General Meeting asked the Government to undertake an assessment of senior attendance centres with a view to their possible extension. In November 1974 this Association sent the Home Office a memorandum on Young Adult Offenders, saying: "Attendance centres would be appropriate for those who cannot pay fines but do not need community service orders or the help of the probation service. They would be particularly useful as suitable reporting centres for football hooligans, providing punishment without loss of job and also prevention of further trouble-making on succeeding Saturdays. Attendance centres (which should be available for those over 21) would have wide public acceptance and support, and should be considered as a matter of urgency for the increasing offences arising from football hooliganism." In November 1975 our Council urged the Government to consider extending the range and expanding Senior Attendance Centres facilities to a level that will enable the courts to deal promptly and effectively with football and other hooligans. Mr Roy Jenkins replied in a letter (sending a copy to the Minister of State for Sport and Recreation) offering a decision and saying: "I do not think the attendance centre is the answer" where adults are concerned.

Perhaps Mr Howell should talk to his Government colleagues rather than to the courts. It is for the Government to provide the facilities which the courts have long needed for the protection of the public. Yours truly, A. J. BRAYSHAW, Secretary, The Magistrates' Association, 28 Fitzroy Square, W1, April 14.

From Mr Damian Green
Sir, Mr Ronald Butt, in his article of April 14, is basing his argument on a false premise if he believes that electors are genuinely asked to choose between two competing prospective governments.

In most constituencies, because of the crudity of our present system, the answer which the voter will be deemed to have given is already a foregone conclusion, and his vote is therefore practically useless. It is also spurious of Mr Butt to argue that the present system encourages "the present parliamentary verdict, the elector wants". The over-sensitivity to "swing" of the first-past-the-post system entails the exact opposite: that the elector often gets a clear parliamentary verdict he did not want.

Yours sincerely, DAMIAN GREEN, Balliol College, April 14.

and marriage counsellor. The spouses themselves will decide whether or not their marriage has broken down. But the word "irretrievable" suggests that for many couples there is a third possibility in addition to the yes or no option, namely that their relationship may be improved with external help to such an extent that it becomes tolerable.

This is often difficult to appreciate. Marriage counsellors are surprised at changes in some relationships, which is perhaps why I am not surprised by Mr Greenwood's client who rang to cancel her divorce proceedings. Availability of legal aid is only one of the many considerations in divorce.

Writing in 1948, when the divorce rate was only half the present one, Dr Henry Dicks talked of divorce reaching "epidemic proportions". Epidemics require far more skill, time, understanding and cooperation from all the relevant practitioners. There is no reason why the old procedures. We will have achieved a lot if these new procedures result in more profitable use of these scarce resources. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS TYNDALL, Chief Officer, The National Marriage Guidance Council, Herbert Gray College, Little Church Street, Rugby, April 10.

The European Anthem

From Mr Bernard Keefe

Sir, I have recently had occasion to find out the official position of the European Anthem, in connection with a forthcoming concert. Music libraries, enquiry bureaus, and other sources could tell me nothing. I enquired of the Department of Education and Science (Arts), the Protocol Section of the Foreign Office, and the information service of the London office of the EEC. But none could tell me even a word of the existence of such an anthem. For their information, and for anyone else, official or otherwise, the European Anthem, based on the theme of the last movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, was formally adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in January 1972. Yours etc, BERNARD KEEFE, 153 Honor Oak Road, SE23, April 6.

Index-linked votes

From Dr Alexander Cooke

Sir, Whenever the rights and wrongs of index-linked public service pensions, governments should remember that these pensioners muster a million votes, and that their numbers increase relatively and absolutely every year. Beware of Senile Power! Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER COOKE, Grove Cottage, St Cross Road, Oxford, April 6.

Laughing bishops

From The Rev Dr William Strarson

Sir, Whenever newly consecrated bishops are photographed with the Archbishop the whole party appears to be convulsed with laughter. What is the joke? Is it an episcopal pun known only to our fathers in God? Or a demonstration of the church's hilarity? Or do rockets tickle when first out on? Yours faithfully, WILLIAM STRARSON, Handsworth, 23 Northmore, Bourne, Lincolnshire, April 13.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأعمال

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 16 and 17

Government 'encouraged' by £394m bond sales to official sterling holders

By Melvyn Westlake
About 18 per cent of the £2,200m held in City money markets by Middle East and other official holders of sterling is to be converted into foreign currency as a result of the British Government's move to reduce the international role of the pound.

This became clear last night when the Bank of England announced the result of its unprecedented offer of foreign-currency denominated bonds to some 25 countries which have traditionally kept significant monetary reserves in sterling.

Applications for the six kinds of bonds, in dollars, Deutsche marks, yen and Swiss francs, amounted to the equivalent of £394.2m. The result was declared by officials to be both "very successful" and "very encouraging", although applications amounted to rather less than the £500m to £1,000m which was being predicted in some quarters.

However, the result was said to be close to the top end of the range considered likely in the Treasury and the Bank of England. Applications for anything above £500m would have surprised officials, it was claimed yesterday.

The offer of foreign currency bonds is part of a wider agreement with Britain's main foreign partners which seeks to reduce our vulnerability to the kind of sudden outflow of

money from London that rocked the pound last autumn.

This agreement was reached last December after an initiative by the Prime Minister to diminish the pound's role as a reserve currency.

Britain undertook to persuade official foreign holders of sterling to reduce the sums kept in this form.

In return, several large industrial nations promised to provide a so-called "safety net" under which they would lend us money in an emergency to offset any sudden and unplanned withdrawal of these foreign sterling balances held in the City.

As its part of the bargain, the Bank of England offered foreign currency bonds to 25 countries at very attractive rates of interest to persuade them to convert out of short-term sterling assets. Fifteen of these countries agreed to lock up their funds in the new medium-term bonds.

The 8½ per cent 1982 bonds, denominated in dollars, drew applications amounting to the equivalent of £116m, while the 8½ per cent 1984 dollar bonds and the 8½ per cent 1987 dollar bonds received applications amounting to the equivalent of £51m and £25m respectively.

Figures for the 10 per cent 1984 Deutsche mark, the 5½ per cent Swiss franc and the 8 per cent yen bonds were £89m, £82m and £45m respectively.

The bonds to be provided in dollars thus account for about 45 per cent of the total, well within the limit asked for by the Americans, who had not wanted to see dollar bonds accounting for more than 75 per cent of the total.

This result will almost certainly be reviewed when central bankers from the main industrial countries meet in Basel this Monday. It is in this forum that the negotiations over the "safety net" have largely been conducted.

At the meeting British officials will be able to claim that they have done their best to reduce the level of the sterling funds subject to the protection of the "safety net". They will also be able to tell their counterparts at the meeting that they have received assurances from those sterling holders who have not taken the opportunity of the bond issue that they, too, will take steps to reduce the sums they keep in the City.

Britain is unlikely, however, to have easy recourse to the "safety net" scheme which comes into operation only if an outflow of money from London reduces our own gold and foreign currency reserves below \$6,750m—the level at which the money stood during the negotiations.

Our reserves have subsequently improved hugely to stand at about some \$9,000m.

Cut in MLR eases way to increased bank loans

By Caroline Atkinson
The Bank of England's minimum lending rate fell by a quarter point to 9 per cent, its lowest level since April, 1976, after yesterday's Treasury bill tender. The fall was triggered automatically by the market-related formula for MLR.

This formula was formally reactivated two weeks ago after a period of an officially administered minimum lending rate which was imposed while the 8½ per cent attempt to smooth this year's sharp upward trend in interest rates.

The fall will be welcomed by those who believe that the Government's stance on monetary policy has been so restrictive that it has led to a recession. It will also be welcomed by those who believe that the Government's stance on monetary policy has been so restrictive that it has led to a recession.

Since then, however, MLR has come down sharply, from 11 per cent to its present 9 per cent. Officials suggest that this relaxation in credit could boost bank lending in April and help to ease the tightness in the money supply during the financial year ending April, 1977, back into the Government's target range of 9 to 13 per cent. It grew by only 5 per cent in the first 11 months of the financial year.

Cheaper bank overdrafts are expected to result from yesterday's MLR cut. Clearing banks may reduce their base rates, now 9½ per cent, by half a point to fall in line with MLR. This would cut the cost of bank finance for prime industrial companies by 10½ per cent and for personal borrowers to between 12½ and 14½ per cent.

However, the cut may not come next week as was first expected. Stronger industrial demand for money is expected in the next couple of weeks as quarterly VAT payments for most manufacturing companies fall due at the end of this month. The clearing banks are, therefore, wary of a cut in their rates at a time when money market rates may be firming, albeit temporarily.

A further fall in MLR next week, following Treasury bill rates, is not ruled out, and some brokers suggest that it could even be half a point. There is, however, no doubt that interest rates are now bottoming out after the fall of 6 per cent points in MLR from its 15 per cent crisis level of last October.

The Bank of England is no longer out of step with money market rates, and the market is no longer looking for large falls in rates. The steadying of the gilt market in recent weeks and the first signs of a firming in longer money rates are a reflection of this.

Financial confidence since the conclusion of the IMF loan is still keeping sterling buoyant, but uncertainty over the Government's ability to ensure further pay restraint and Britain's continued high rate of inflation has dampened market enthusiasm.

Mr Carter aims for 4pc inflation by end 1979 in joint programme with unions and industry

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 15
President Carter today announced a programme that aims substantially to reduce the United States inflation rate by the end of 1979, while at the same time ensuring that further significant progress is made on cutting the unemployment level.

The centrepiece of the programme is the establishment of "a framework for consultation" between leaders of the Government, business and the trade unions jointly to combat inflation on a purely voluntary basis.

This has been agreed upon by both Mr George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO trade union organization and Mr Reginald Jones, chairman of the General Electric Company and current head of the Business Council. Wage and price controls in any mandatory form have been strictly ruled out.

President Carter said: "I believe that Government, business and labour together can, as an interim goal, reasonably aim at reducing the rate of inflation by two percentage points by the end of 1979, while still vigorously pursuing our commitment to full employment."

He added: "All segments of the American economy must cooperate if we are to get inflation under control. In the long run, that is the only path to more jobs, stable prices, and greater real income for all our people."

He stressed at a press conference that it had become increasingly obvious in the past three months that inflationary pressures have been building up, with consumer prices rising at an annual rate of more than 9 per cent in this period and wholesale prices rising at more than 10 per cent.

Mr Charles Schultze, the President's

chief economic adviser, stated at a later press conference that the underlying inflation rate was now around 6 per cent and that the Administration's goal was to reduce this by the end of 1979 to 4 to 4½ per cent. He added that by that time the Administration aimed to have brought unemployment down to 5 to 5½ per cent from its current 7.3 per cent.

The President and his chief advisers repeatedly noted that business and trade union leaders had made commitments to join with the Government to combat inflation. "Government alone cannot reach our inflation-cutting goal," President Carter said.

However, he noted that the anti-inflation programme did contain many measures the Government would take to further its price stability aims. The programme renewed the President's pledge for a balanced federal budget by 1981; it called for better coordination of monetary and fiscal policies through regular monthly meetings between the President and the chairman of the Federal Reserve system; it called for establishing a better economic information system and for a "early warning system" at the Government's Wage and Price Stability Council on inflationary conditions.

Moreover, the programme calls for establishing more effective means of assessing the economic impact of Government regulations; for strict enforcement of anti-trust laws; for deregulation of industries, such as the airlines, that are currently regulated by the Government.

Mr Carter said his programme aimed to boost productivity in industry and agriculture. Tax reform proposals, which would be announced in the autumn, would include proposals to strengthen business

investment and to raise productivity. In addition, proposals were now being formulated to avoid food price fluctuations by establishing strategic food and raw materials stocks, by offering incentives to farmers to maintain reserves and by "negotiations to reduce fluctuations in the world price of sugar and grains, and an open-minded look at price agreements for other commodities."

As well as immediately seeking what the President described as "orderly international marketing agreements" on sugar, the programme calls for the use of international trade policies that help to promote domestic price stability and for "cooperation with other nations to reduce worldwide inflationary trends, including support of the International Monetary Fund."

President Carter admitted that the comprehensive energy programme he will announce next week would have some inflationary effect but the degree to which it did not add to inflation would depend on the support given to his proposals to conserve energy. The energy proposals might add half of one percentage point to the inflation rate.

Production up: Good news for Mr Carter came when the Federal Reserve Board reported a sharp increase in industrial production last month. It said the index of industrial production, a key indicator of economic activity, rose 1.4 per cent in March, the biggest monthly gain since August 1975, when it rose 2.2 per cent.

However, the dollar closed weaker on balance after foreign exchange market operators assessed President Carter's programme as disappointing.

Leading article, page 13

In brief Varley hint of BSC planning pact

The British Steel Corporation could be one of the first big industrial concerns to sign a planning agreement with the Government, later this year, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, says.

"I am heartened by the Corporation's confidence about the future and by its readiness to anticipate and accept industrial change and new forms of industrial organization," he writes in the BSC's quarterly review, published today. "It is setting an example many others can follow."

He recalled that the Corporation had been the first to express concern to experiment with worker directors in the 1960s and one of the first to enter discussions with the Government on planning agreements.

Development area status for five centres

Status as special development areas has been granted to Lanark, Cumnock, Kibberville, Dundee and Arbroath under the Government's review of assisted areas. Industrial development in their various employment office areas, already designated development areas, will attract higher rates of government grants.

Devoted from development to intermediate areas will be Aberdeen, Malton, Northallerton, Pickering, Richmond (Yorkshire), and Thirsk, but the changes are delayed until a year's time. Yesterday there was strong local welcome for the news that the Hull, Grimsby and Shotton travel-to-work areas are being upgraded with intermediate status. New rules for the Humberside and Deeside development areas also mean that industrial development certificates will not be needed in planning factory schemes.

Japan TV talks

American and Japanese government trade experts have reached no agreement on proposals to limit Japan's exports of colour television sets to the United States. "The talks are going slowly, but we are making some progress," a United States official said.

He is Deputy Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry, will visit Washington next week for talks with Mr Robert Strauss, International Trade negotiator.

Shares lower

Pay policy worries and profit rating hit equities on the London stock market yesterday and the FT index closed 4.5 down at 416.5. But this still left it 13.5 higher over the week. Gilt discounts both the MLR cut and the Retail Prices Index to end with losses of up to half a point.

Investor's Week, page 17

Industrial democracy

Mr John Phillips, president of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, last night urged action to form "an enduring policy for industrial democracy". Speaking at the institute's East Anglian branch in Cambridge, he said that the discussion had got off to a bad start because of the severe limitations imposed by the Bullock committee's terms of reference.

Peachey set to explain board 'change of heart'

By John Brennan
Lord Mails, chairman of Peachey Property Corporation yesterday dismissed reports suggesting that the group's board would resign from legal action after Sir Eric Miller's cancellation of an order for a £1m executive jet aircraft.

The aircraft dispute involves legal action to recover a £200,000 deposit on the cancelled order for a Mystere Falcon from the French Dassault company. It is the latest in a string of imaginative, but unsubstantiated rumours about the Peachey board's abrupt about-turn earlier this week, when Sir Eric, who stepped down as Peachey's chairman and managing director two weeks ago to a chorus of praise from his fellow directors, was asked for and refused to give his resignation as a director.

Lord Mails said that the matters which came to light after Sir Eric's decision to resign, the chair and which resulted in the board's "change of heart" will be revealed in Peachey's 1976 accounts due on Monday.

The Dassault case did not have a bearing on the board's decision. And it seems equally improbable that the row could have been sparked by Sir Eric's creation of an air service business within Peachey, making use of the group's Bell Jet Ranger helicopters, one of which achieved fame in 1974 when lent by Sir Eric to Sir

Harold Wilson for use during the election campaign.

Suggesting that the transfers made as part of Peachey's Continental development programme might have run into exchange control problems have been firmly discounted by the Bank of England.

It is not clear whether Peachey's auditors, Price Waterhouse, threatened to resign over treatment of the 1976 accounts in recent weeks. And it will not be clear until Monday whether the £282,000 bad debt written off at the preliminary stage and now subject to legal action for recovery, or the £325,000 referred to in last year's auditors report as a debt resulting from the default of a 50 per cent partner with Peachey in a Nottinghamshire development scheme, have a direct bearing on Sir Eric's position.

Whatever the accounts reveal on Monday, Peachey's shares have begun to attract speculative bid interest again. The shares closed 4½p higher at 42½p yesterday.

A perennial bid favourite, Peachey has been subject to sharp speculative price movements for years. The possible departure of Sir Eric has led the board to renewed talk of approaches from Lorrain and ICI's pension fund. But Lord Mails categorically denies that any approaches have been received, and Lorrain equally categorically denies that it has any interest in the group.

1,000 walk out at Halewood over suspensions

Another unofficial strike over stricter disciplinary procedure at the Ford plant at Halewood, Liverpool, resulted yesterday in 1,000 toolmakers and maintenance men walking out of the body stamping plant.

The craftsmen, members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, were protesting at the one-day suspension of 10 colleagues who left the shop early.

They do not accept the procedure, agreed at the beginning of the year by the Transport and General Workers' Union, and are supporting a national campaign by their own union for separate negotiations on pay and conditions.

Production men on the Friday night shift reported for duty normally.

Guinness Peat liquidates London Electrical portfolio

By Nicholas Hirst
Guinness Peat, the merchant bank and commodity broking house, yesterday cashed in on its acquisition of London Electrical and General Trust earlier this year, by liquidating possibly all of the trust's £8m United Kingdom portfolio, equal to around a quarter of its asset value.

The weight of selling, which, market sources said came through Cazenove and Co, Guinness Peat's brokers, was a big factor in depressing a market which had been expected to rise after Wall Street's delight over President Carter's changes in economic policy.

Although at the close the FT

index was down 4.5 at 416.5, Guinness Peat had timed its sale carefully. When it made its offer for the £35m fund, Guinness Peat's bid was some 5 per cent above the break-up value of the fund, but since then the market has picked up by the same amount.

For Guinness Peat the offer for the trust was a straight alternative to a rights issue, which looks to have proved a very good deal.

It may be that the debenture holders of £950,000 of stock will have to be repaid at par, but with liquidation under way, negotiations have also been taking place on the debentures.

North Sea delay 'could cost £600m output'

Britain could lose £600m in oil production from the North Sea over the next two years because of delays in installing offshore production facilities, according to a report by a firm of stockbrokers.

Wood Mackenzie and Company, of Edinburgh, suggests that six oilfields will be affected, involving lost production of 150,000 barrels in 1978 and £50m in 1979.

The report suggests that the processing plant at Sullom Voe oil terminal in Shetland will not be ready before mid-1979. As a result, oil from the North Sea will have to be processed on the production platforms, and gas which would normally go ashore by pipeline will have to be burned off by flaring.

The six oilfields affected by the delays, according to the report, are Brent, Dunlin, Ninian, Cormorant, Tiddie and Heather. Each is in the area east of Shetland, and each will send oil and gas by pipeline to Sullom Voe.

A spokesman for Wood Mackenzie and Company said that the delays were caused by a combination of factors.

"There have been delays on the oilfields themselves, on the pipelines, and at Sullom Voe. The effect of these delays is to reduce our estimate of the expected oil flows from these fields."

However, later the Department of Energy said that it had been in constant touch with BP, as managers of the Sullom Voe project, and with the operators of the fields covered by the Brent and Ninian systems.

"We are satisfied that the contingency plans being laid for coping with delay in the installation of stabilization plant at Sullom Voe will avoid any substantial delay in the build-up of production during 1978 and 1979. We certainly do not accept that there will be delay on anything like the scale forecast by Wood Mackenzie."

Staff failures blamed for £58m Credit Suisse loss

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, April 15
A full investigation will start on Monday at the Chiasso branch of the Credit Suisse bank which has run up losses of £58m, in what is described as "poor management" of short-term investment capital.

A spokesman for Credit Suisse said in Zurich that the mismanagement of fiduciary funds arose when clients of the Chiasso branch asked for their funds to be placed at higher rates of interest abroad.

The spokesman said the staff of the branch failed to obey two instructions. First, to place such funds only with top quality names, and secondly, to

avoid placing too many funds with one individual borrower.

Furthermore, they failed to inform the head office general management of the transactions. He said it took a while for the head office to discover the situation because fiduciary business is not included in regular bank balance-sheets in Switzerland, but comes "under the line."

He declined to comment on Italian press reports that the losses were the result of difficulties on the part of a Milan financial concern.

The bank is covering the losses from its reserves.

The figure sets a new record for losses by a big bank in Switzerland.

which will continue.

It was originally a brand-name first used by The Gramophone Company in 1900, after the company had purchased a modified picture of "Nipper", the dog listening to a phonograph, painted by Francis Barraud in about 1899.

For £100, including the copyright, The Gramophone Company bought what became one of the best-known company logos in the world and persuaded Barraud to change the original painting to include one of its (then) modern gramophones.

Ronald Emier

How the markets moved

| Falls | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Ass Biscuit | 5p to 60p | Kloof | 10p to 330p |
| Carlo Eng | 2p to 43p | Morgan Edwards | 2p to 40p |
| E. Lacer Paper | 2p to 38p | Newman Elers | 2p to 38p |
| Fluoro | 2p to 33p | Prop Inv & Fin | 5p to 75p |
| Gallenkamp | 8p to 28p | Sandeman G | 2p to 38p |
| Hambro Life | 5p to 215p | San Alliance | 8p to 42p |
| Hardy Purn | 2p to 29p | Unilever | 8p to 45p |
| Imp Chem Ind | 6p to 32p | Utd Scientific | 8p to 190p |

| Rises | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Algate Ind | 10p to 25p | Porter Chad | 7p to 85p |
| Cammer | 5p to 54p | Redfearn Nat | 7p to 10p |
| EMI C Records | 5p to 13p | Simpson S | 3p to 45p |
| Hunting Assoc | 10p to 12p | UK Props | 3p to 15p |
| McLeod Russell | 5p to 20p | Warren Plant | 7p to 15p |
| Peachey Prop | 4p to 42p | Watts Blake | 8p to 135p |

THE POUND

| | Bank buys | Bank sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 1.60 | 1.55 |
| Austria Sch | 30.25 | 29.75 |
| Belgium F | 66.25 | 61.50 |
| Canada \$ | 1.85 | 1.80 |
| Denmark Kr | 10.80 | 10.20 |
| Finland Mk | 7.15 | 6.85 |
| France F | 8.77 | 8.45 |
| Germany Dm | 4.24 | 4.02 |
| Greece Dr | 64.75 | 61.75 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 8.20 | 7.90 |
| Italy L | 155.00 | 150.50 |
| Japan Yn | 495.00 | 470.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.42 | 4.20 |
| Norway Kr | 9.00 | 8.60 |
| Portugal Esc | 67.50 | 62.75 |
| S Africa Rd | 2.90 | 2.85 |
| Spain Ps | 121.75 | 114.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 7.40 | 7.20 |
| Switzerland Fr | 4.50 | 4.28 |
| US \$ | 1.76 | 1.71 |
| Yugoslavia Dn | 34.00 | 31.75 |

Equities lost ground. Gilt-edged securities were lower. Dollar premium 121 per cent (effective rate 45.35 per cent). Sterling closed one point higher at \$1.780. The "effective devaluation" rate was 61.6 per cent.

Gold closed at \$150.875 an ounce, down \$1.00. SDR-6 was 1.16144 on Friday, while SDR-4 was 0.676160. Commodities: Reuters' index closed at 1,738.4 (previously 1,749.2). Reports, pages 17 and 18

On other pages

Bank Base Rates Table 18 Annual statements: Law Land 15

THE LAW LAND COMPANY LIMITED

| GROUP'S BUSINESS—investment in and development of real property in United Kingdom, Australia and Belgium with subsidiary interest in property trading. | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| | 1976 £ | 1975 £ |
| TURNOVER | | |
| Investment | 4,675,516 | 4,348,462 |
| Trading | 3,648,322 | 1,028,330 |
| PROFIT after taxation, minority interests and transfer from capital reserve of £31,000 (1975: £375,000) relating to development properties | 425,215 | 808,168 |
| EARNINGS per 20p Ordinary Share | 1.21p | 3.03p |
| ORDINARY DIVIDEND per share for the year | 2.37p | 2.31p |
| COST OF ORDINARY DIVIDENDS payable on 34,693,819 ordinary 20p shares (1975 on 32,689,174) | 803,857 | 757,408 |
| UNDISTRIBUTED PROFITS carried forward | 671,436 | 1,052,328 |
| PROPERTIES | | |
| Investment | 52,611,870 | 50,047,685 |
| Trading | 8,918,637 | 8,582,492 |
| <p>Investment properties were independently valued during the year resulting in a net surplus of £430,119 credited to capital reserve after writing down £5.3 million on undeveloped sites and £5.6 million on completed but substantially undervalued properties. A significant improvement in the value of these properties can be anticipated when fully let.</p> <p>Trading properties are stated at aggregate cost, which is lower than aggregate independent valuation.</p> | | |
| REGISTERED OFFICE | | |
| Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EP | | |

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Revival at home spurs Morgan Crucible

Well in line with market expectations Morgan Crucible carried out its robust program to raise the year to January 2 some 60 per cent higher at £54.7m. Sales in turn increased from £64.7m to £78.9m.

Profits rose in investment income of £205,000 against £335,000 and after net finance charges down from £2.17m to £1.82m. After deducting extraordinary income of only £45,000 compared with £476,000 last time, the attributable jumped from £225m to £451m. Earnings a share climbed from 50p to 61p. Meanwhile, the board is declaring a second interim dividend instead of a final so as to be able to raise the total by a third interim if so permitted. The total to date is lifted from 6.61p gross to 7.27p.

All sectors did well in the year just past. Carbon turnover increased from £27.4m to £35.5m and trading profits by £2m to £4.2m. The thermic steel brought in 32.6m against £23.8m and £4.9m against £3.9m respectively, against £8.5m and £1.3m against £1.03m, and other activities £3.11m against £3.01m and £31,000 compared with £39,000. Direct exports plus sales from its overseas companies were 59 per cent against 55 per cent of total sales.

Chairman, Mr Alan Weston Smith, reports a steady revival in industrial activity in almost all sectors of the home market. But other world markets, particularly in Continental Europe, were groping "still somewhat hesitantly" towards recovery.

Over £3m from Brown Boveri Kent

Brown Boveri Kent turns in pre-tax profits up from £2.45m (for a year) to £3.04m pre-tax in the nine months period to December 31. This was achieved on turnover of £47.1m for the shorter period compared with £55m for 12 months. After crediting extraordinary items of £463,000 against £310,000, net profit rises from £1.15m to £1.96m.

Earnings a share on a net basis improved from 2.23p to 3.44p and dividend from 2.96p to 4.08p. It pays a dividend for the nine months of 1.85p gross, equal to 2.46p gross on an annual basis, and compares with 1.54p. The period to December 31 is the last in respect of which dividends are not restricted by current limitations.

Generally, compared with the same period of 1975, turnover showed a growth of about 14 per cent while orders rose by slightly more. Though most of the increased sales value arose from inflation and currency changes, activity was healthy throughout the group, with some volume growth in selected areas.

In the current year liquidity should remain adequate, says the board.

Kwik Save's checkouts ring £3.8m

Kwik Save, the discount store, is hardly dismayed by the first half showing, the directors forecast of profits for the full year showing a "substantial" increase though "probably of a lesser percentage" than the first half increase. It is hardly dismayed by the first half showing, the directors forecast of profits for the full year showing a "substantial" increase though "probably of a lesser percentage" than the first half increase.

The share dividend responded with a 4p gain at one point but slipped to close unchanged at 172p. The snag is that they have spiralled from 80p since last year and the yield on a maximum dividend would be less than 4 per cent. But any remaining fears that Kwik Save would mislay its recipe with the departure of Mr Albert Gubay can be laid to rest.

Ests & Gen row abates but rebels flare up at Newey

One shareholders' rebellion quelled by a "compromise" and another fomenting with the aid of veteran campaigner Mr Leslie Harris comprise the mixed package on the renewed dissent front.

Mr Harris is seeking shareholders' backing for, among other things, a "gogetter" on the board of Newey Group, the Birmingham makers of haberdashery products. He is dissatisfied with its current performance and urges appointment of other directors to improve overall results.

He also asks for members' comments on the holding of the Newey pension fund. The 1975 accounts showed the fund held about 11 per cent of the equity and "since no reference was made in the 1975 accounts" it could be assumed the holding might be "considerably" reduced, possibly by as much as 100,000 shares.

At Estates and General Investments the shareholders' association announce happier news in that the outstanding differences with the present board have been resolved by a "compromise". Agreed steps to be taken include a consent order ending the litigation and the company to pay a total of £5,000.

Additionally, the board is to nominate another director who is to be acceptable to the Newey pension fund. When the terms are made effective, the association "will cease to exist" and signifying the "end of the battle" between the board and the dissidents.

Sankey. Later this year, on July 25, Parsons & Co with offices in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Salisbury House in London will merge with Kerr Anderson, Miller Stevenson, another Glasgow broker. This firm will be called simply Parsons & Co.

WILLIAM JACKS
Turnover for half-year to December 31, £4.16m (£3.35m). Pre-tax profit, £93,000 (£19,000). There is again no interim dividend. Board hopes next year will see return to dividends.

WADE POTTERIES
Sales for half-year to January 31, £1.15m (£1.05m). Pre-tax profit, £225,000 (£205,000). Payment, gross, up from 0.71p to 0.78p.

BENFORD CONCRETE
Order intake, production, turnover and profitability have been maintained to date at levels similar to last year. Locations are they will continue to do so overall at least until half-way, says chairman.

Recent Issues. Closing prices for new issues of shares and bonds. Includes details for various companies and their respective issue sizes and closing prices.

Stocks and Bonds. A table listing various stocks and bonds with their respective prices and yields. Includes sections for "Recent Issues" and "Stocks and Bonds".

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the company will be held on the 25th April, 1977, at 11 a.m. at the Registered Office of the Company, 171, Chancery Lane, London, E.C.4.

Business. A section containing various business-related notices and announcements, including company news and financial reports.

Prices. A table listing various prices for different commodities and services, including food items and industrial materials.

Foreign exchange. A section detailing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including the US dollar, Swiss franc, and others.

Gold. A section providing information about gold prices and market trends, including the price of gold per ounce.

Stock markets

Decline for first time in 6 sessions

For the first time in six sessions, share prices gave ground at the end of the quietest week of the year.

Profit-taking, uninspiring industrial production figures and renewed worries over union opposition to further wage restraint proved more than enough to offset the influence of another quarter-cut in the M.L.R. and by the close the FT Index was 4.5 down at 4165.

Over the week, the gain is 13.5 and, looked at in a wider perspective, shares have now recouped half of the losses incurred since the 40-month index "high" achieved a month ago.

The B.T.R. cut did little for the gilt-edged market, where short dates fell up to three-sixteenths and "mediums" and "longs" were as much as half a point off.

Ahead of full-year figures, due on Thursday, new processing group Alginer Industries jumped 10p to 257p in a thin market. Record profits of around £2.4m against £1.65m have already been forecast, but some expect an even better figure, especially as production difficulties were solved late last year.

Dealers said that the falls were attributable to lack of interest as both the interest-rate move and the retail price figures which confirmed the fears about the pace of inflation, had been expected and, as such, discounted.

An additional market depressant, especially among the

Company (and per value) Brown Boveri Kent (25p) 1.2 1.36 1.7 1.94
Kwik Save (10p) 1.3 1.51 1.7 1.94
Morgan Crucible (10p) 1.31 1.51 1.7 1.94
Geo. G. Sandeman (25p) 1.31 1.51 1.7 1.94
Senior Eng (10p) 0.52 0.48 3.6 1.05

Latest dividends
Ord div Year Pay date Year's total Prev year

Company (and per value) Brown Boveri Kent (25p) 1.2 1.36 1.7 1.94
Kwik Save (10p) 1.3 1.51 1.7 1.94
Morgan Crucible (10p) 1.31 1.51 1.7 1.94
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Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Dividends are shown net of tax on pence per share. Dividends are shown net of tax on pence per share.

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Sandeman stricken but hoping

The news from George G. Sandeman (port sherry and Capa Negra brandy) is not all bad. Profits, the directors hope, will be better this year than last—45 costs in Spain and Portugal rise no further. But in 1976 pre-tax profits plunged from £2,170,000 to £1,040,000 or by more than 50 per cent. The main cause, they say, was a fall in the price of sherry, which was as high as £2.8m.

A light tax charge helped earnings, which emerged at 2.34p against 4.20p and happily the gross dividend is 3.56p. In 1975, profits were as high as £2.8m.

Senior's ten years
Exports, heavy capital spending and varied interests did Senior Engineering Group proud last year. With market forecasts varying between £3.8m before tax and more than £4m, Senior came up with a splendid £4.7m against only £3.8m the year before. This 24 per cent increase compares with one of only 20 per cent in sales. At half-time the directors reported a brighter short term outlook and now, after a year of recession they plan to do even better this year.

In 1966 pre-tax profits were only £494,000. The gross dividend rises from 1.46p to 1.61p, and there will be an extra 0.031p if ACT drops.

BRITISH VITA IMPROVES
Profitability from manufacturing operations in the UK for first quarter of current year compared favourably with last quarter of 1976, chairman told annual meeting.

Two Birmingham brokers are also getting together on the same day. They are Gilbert, a firm with three partners, and Barratt, Jeffs & Sankey who also have three. This new broker will be Gilbert, Jeffs and Sankey.

Foreign Exchange
In this, pre-weekend trading, the pound closed lower at £1.7180, up one point on the day, after falling at one stage to £1.7175. Its "effective rate" against the dollar was 1.7180, against 1.7175 the day before.

Spot Position of Sterling
Market rates (Sterling) 1.7180, 1.7175, 1.7170, 1.7165, 1.7160, 1.7155, 1.7150, 1.7145, 1.7140, 1.7135, 1.7130, 1.7125, 1.7120, 1.7115, 1.7110, 1.7105, 1.7100, 1.7095, 1.7090, 1.7085, 1.7080, 1.7075, 1.7070, 1.7065, 1.7060, 1.7055, 1.7050, 1.7045, 1.7040, 1.7035, 1.7030, 1.7025, 1.7020, 1.7015, 1.7010, 1.7005, 1.7000, 1.6995, 1.6990, 1.6985, 1.6980, 1.6975, 1.6970, 1.6965, 1.6960, 1.6955, 1.6950, 1.6945, 1.6940, 1.6935, 1.6930, 1.6925, 1.6920, 1.6915, 1.6910, 1.6905, 1.6900, 1.6895, 1.6890, 1.6885, 1.6880, 1.6875, 1.6870, 1.6865, 1.6860, 1.6855, 1.6850, 1.6845, 1.6840, 1.6835, 1.6830, 1.6825, 1.6820, 1.6815, 1.6810, 1.6805, 1.6800, 1.6795, 1.6790, 1.6785, 1.6780, 1.6775, 1.6770, 1.6765, 1.6760, 1.6755, 1.6750, 1.6745, 1.6740, 1.6735, 1.6730, 1.6725, 1.6720, 1.6715, 1.6710, 1.6705, 1.6700, 1.6695, 1.6690, 1.6685, 1.6680, 1.6675, 1.6670, 1.6665, 1.6660, 1.6655, 1.6650, 1.6645, 1.6640, 1.6635, 1.6630, 1.6625, 1.6620, 1.6615, 1.6610, 1.6605, 1.6600, 1.6595, 1.6590, 1.6585, 1.6580, 1.6575, 1.6570, 1.6565, 1.6560, 1.6555, 1.6550, 1.6545, 1.6540, 1.6535, 1.6530, 1.6525, 1.6520, 1.6515, 1.6510, 1.6505, 1.6500, 1.6495, 1.6490, 1.6485, 1.6480, 1.6475, 1.6470, 1.6465, 1.6460, 1.6455, 1.6450, 1.6445, 1.6440, 1.6435, 1.6430, 1.6425, 1.6420, 1.6415, 1.6410, 1.6405, 1.6400, 1.6395, 1.6390, 1.6385, 1.6380, 1.6375, 1.6370, 1.6365, 1.6360, 1.6355, 1.6350, 1.6345, 1.6340, 1.6335, 1.6330, 1.6325, 1.6320, 1.6315, 1.6310, 1.6305, 1.6300, 1.6295, 1.6290, 1.6285, 1.6280, 1.6275, 1.6270, 1.6265, 1.6260, 1.6255, 1.6250, 1.6245, 1.6240, 1.6235, 1.6230, 1.6225, 1.6220, 1.6215, 1.6210, 1.6205, 1.6200, 1.6195, 1.6190, 1.6185, 1.6180, 1.6175, 1.6170, 1.6165, 1.6160, 1.6155, 1.6150, 1.6145, 1.6140, 1.6135, 1.6130, 1.6125, 1.6120, 1.6115, 1.6110, 1.6105, 1.6100, 1.6095, 1.6090, 1.6085, 1.6080, 1.6075, 1.6070, 1.6065, 1.6060, 1.6055, 1.6050, 1.6045, 1.6040, 1.6035, 1.6030, 1.6025, 1.6020, 1.6015, 1.6010, 1.6005, 1.6000, 1.5995, 1.5990, 1.5985, 1.5980, 1.5975, 1.5970, 1.5965, 1.5960, 1.5955, 1.5950, 1.5945, 1.5940, 1.5935, 1.5930, 1.5925, 1.5920, 1.5915, 1.5910, 1.5905, 1.5900, 1.5895, 1.5890, 1.5885, 1.5880, 1.5875, 1.5870, 1.5865, 1.5860, 1.5855, 1.5850, 1.5845, 1.5840, 1.5835, 1.5830, 1.5825, 1.5820, 1.5815, 1.5810, 1.5805, 1.5800, 1.5795, 1.5790, 1.5785, 1.5780, 1.5775, 1.5770, 1.5765, 1.5760, 1.5755, 1.5750, 1.5745, 1.5740, 1.5735, 1.5730, 1.5725, 1.5720, 1.5715, 1.5710, 1.5705, 1.5700, 1.5695, 1.5690, 1.5685, 1.5680, 1.5675, 1.5670, 1.5665, 1.5660, 1.5655, 1.5650, 1.5645, 1.5640, 1.5635, 1.5630, 1.5625, 1.5620, 1.5615, 1.5610, 1.5605, 1.5600, 1.5595, 1.5590, 1.5585, 1.5580, 1.5575, 1.5570, 1.5565, 1.5560, 1.5555, 1.5550, 1.5545, 1.5540, 1.5535, 1.5530, 1.5525, 1.5520, 1.5515, 1.5510, 1.5505, 1.5500, 1.5495, 1.5490, 1.5485, 1.5480, 1.5475, 1.5470, 1.5465, 1.5460, 1.5455, 1.5450, 1.5445, 1.5440, 1.5435, 1.5430, 1.5425, 1.5420, 1.5415, 1.5410, 1.5405, 1.5400, 1.5395, 1.5390, 1.5385, 1.5380, 1.5375, 1.5370, 1.5365, 1.5360, 1.5355, 1.5350, 1.5345, 1.5340, 1.5335, 1.5330, 1.5325, 1.5320, 1.5315, 1.5310, 1.5305, 1.5300, 1.5295, 1.5290, 1.5285, 1.5280, 1.5275, 1.5270, 1.5265, 1.5260, 1.5255, 1.5250, 1.5245, 1.5240, 1.5235, 1.5230, 1.5225, 1.5220, 1.5215, 1.5210, 1.5205, 1.5200, 1.5195, 1.5190, 1.5185, 1.5180, 1.5175, 1.5170, 1.5165, 1.5160, 1.5155, 1.5150, 1.5145, 1.5140, 1.5135, 1.5130, 1.5125, 1.5120, 1.5115, 1.5110, 1.5105, 1.5100, 1.5095, 1.5090, 1.5085, 1.5080, 1.5075, 1.5070, 1.5065, 1.5060, 1.5055, 1.5050, 1.5045, 1.5040, 1.5035, 1.5030, 1.5025, 1.5020, 1.5015, 1.5010, 1.5005, 1.5000, 1.4995, 1.4990, 1.4985, 1.4980, 1.4975, 1.4970, 1.4965, 1.4960, 1.4955, 1.4950, 1.4945, 1.4940, 1.4935, 1.4930, 1.4925, 1.4920, 1.4915, 1.4910, 1.4905, 1.4900, 1.4895, 1.4890, 1.4885, 1.4880, 1.4875, 1.4870, 1.4865, 1.4860, 1.4855, 1.4850, 1.4845, 1.4840, 1.4835, 1.4830, 1.4825, 1.4820, 1.4815, 1.4810, 1.4805, 1.4800, 1.4795, 1.4790, 1.4785, 1.4780, 1.4775, 1.4770, 1.4765, 1.4760, 1.4755, 1.4750, 1.4745, 1.4740, 1.4735, 1.4730, 1.4725, 1.4720, 1.4715, 1.4710, 1.4705, 1.4700, 1.4695, 1.4690, 1.4685, 1.4680, 1.4675, 1.4670, 1.4665, 1.4660, 1.4655, 1.4650, 1.4645, 1.4640, 1.4635, 1.4630, 1.4625, 1.4620, 1.4615, 1.4610, 1.4605, 1.4600, 1.4595, 1.4590, 1.4585, 1.4580, 1.4575, 1.4570, 1.4565, 1.4560, 1.4555, 1.4550, 1.4545, 1.4540, 1.4535, 1.4530, 1.4525, 1.4520, 1.4515, 1.4510, 1.4505, 1.4500, 1.4495, 1.4490, 1.4485, 1.4480, 1.4475, 1.4470, 1.4465, 1.4460, 1.4455, 1.4450, 1.4445, 1.4440, 1.4435, 1.4430, 1.4425, 1.4420, 1.4415, 1.4410, 1.4405, 1.4400, 1.4395, 1.4390, 1.4385, 1.4380, 1.4375, 1.4370, 1.4365, 1.4360, 1.4355, 1.4350, 1.4345, 1.4340, 1.4335, 1.4330, 1.4325, 1.4320, 1.4315, 1.4310, 1.4305, 1.4300, 1.4295, 1.4290, 1.4285, 1.4280, 1.4275, 1.4270, 1.4265, 1.4260, 1.4255, 1.4250, 1.4245, 1.4240, 1.4235, 1.4230, 1.4225, 1.4220, 1.4215, 1.4210, 1.4205, 1.4200, 1.4195, 1.4190, 1.4185, 1.4180, 1.4175, 1.4170, 1.4165, 1.4160, 1.4155, 1.4150, 1.4145, 1.4140, 1.4135, 1.4130, 1.4125, 1.4120, 1.4115, 1.4110, 1.4105, 1.4100, 1.4095, 1.4090, 1.4085, 1.4080, 1.4075, 1.4070, 1.4065, 1.4060, 1.4055, 1.4050, 1.4045, 1.4040, 1.4035, 1.4030, 1.4025, 1.4020, 1.4015, 1.4010, 1.4005, 1.4000, 1.3995, 1.3990, 1.3985, 1.3980, 1.3975, 1.3970, 1.3965, 1.3960, 1.3955, 1.3950, 1.3945, 1.3940, 1.3935, 1.3930, 1.3925, 1.3920, 1.3915, 1.3910, 1.3905, 1.3900, 1.3895, 1.3890, 1.3885, 1.3880, 1.3875, 1.3870, 1.3865, 1.3860, 1.3855, 1.3850, 1.3845, 1.3840, 1.3835, 1.3830, 1.3825, 1.3820, 1.3815, 1.3810, 1.3805, 1.3800, 1.3795, 1.3790, 1.3785, 1.3780, 1.3775, 1.3770, 1.3765, 1.3760, 1.3755, 1.3750, 1.3745, 1.3740, 1.3735, 1.3730, 1.3725, 1.3720, 1.3715, 1.3710, 1.3705, 1.3700, 1.3695, 1.3690, 1.3685, 1.3680, 1.3675, 1.3670, 1.3665, 1.3660, 1.3655, 1.3650, 1.3645, 1.3640, 1.3635, 1.3630, 1.3625, 1.3620, 1.3615, 1.3610, 1.3605, 1.3600, 1.3595, 1.3590, 1.3585, 1.3580, 1.3575, 1.3570, 1.3565, 1.3560, 1.3555, 1.3550, 1.3545, 1.3540, 1.3535, 1.3530, 1.3525, 1.3520, 1.3515, 1.3510, 1.3505, 1.3500, 1.3495, 1.3490, 1.3485, 1.3480, 1.3475, 1.3470, 1.3465, 1.3460, 1.3455, 1.3450, 1.3445, 1.3440, 1.3435, 1.3430, 1.3425, 1.3420, 1.3415, 1.3410, 1.3405, 1.3400, 1.3395, 1.3390, 1.3385, 1.3380, 1.3375, 1.3370, 1.3365, 1.3360, 1.3355, 1.3350, 1.3345, 1.3340, 1.3335, 1.3330, 1.3325, 1.3320, 1.3315, 1.3310, 1.3305, 1.3300, 1.3295, 1.3290, 1.3285, 1.3280, 1.3275, 1.3270, 1.3265, 1.3260, 1.3255, 1.3250, 1.3245, 1.3240, 1.3235, 1.3230, 1.3225, 1.3220, 1.3215, 1.3210, 1.3205, 1.3200, 1.3195, 1.3190, 1.3185, 1.3180, 1.3175, 1.3170, 1.3165, 1.3160, 1.3155, 1.3150, 1.3145, 1.3140, 1.3135, 1.3130, 1.3125, 1.3120, 1.3115, 1.3110, 1.3105, 1.3100, 1.3095, 1.3090, 1.3085, 1.3080, 1.3075, 1.3070, 1.3065, 1.3060, 1.3055, 1.3050, 1.3045, 1.3040, 1.3035, 1.3030, 1.3025, 1.3020, 1.3015, 1.3010, 1.3005, 1.3000, 1.2995, 1.2990, 1.2985, 1.2980, 1.2975, 1.2970, 1.2965, 1.2960, 1.2955, 1.2950, 1.2945, 1.2940, 1.2935, 1.2930, 1.2925, 1.2920, 1.2915, 1.2910, 1.2905, 1.2900, 1.2895, 1.2890, 1.2885, 1.2880, 1.2875, 1.2870, 1.2865, 1.2860, 1.2855, 1.2850, 1.2845, 1.2840, 1.2835, 1.2830, 1.2825, 1.2820, 1.2815, 1.2810, 1.2805, 1.2800, 1.2795, 1.2790, 1.2785, 1.2780, 1.2775, 1.2770, 1.2765, 1.2760, 1.2755, 1.2750, 1.2745, 1.2740, 1.2735, 1.2730, 1.2725, 1.2720, 1.2715, 1.2710, 1.2705, 1.2700, 1.2695, 1.2690, 1.2685, 1.2680, 1.2675, 1.2670, 1.2665, 1.2660, 1.2655, 1.2650, 1.2645, 1.2640, 1.2635, 1.2630, 1.2625, 1.2620, 1.2615, 1.2610, 1.2605, 1.2600, 1

Bank Base Rates

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Barclays Bank | 9 1/2% |
| Consolidated Credits | 9 1/2% |
| First London Secs | 9 1/2% |
| C. Moore & Co | 9 1/2% |
| Lloyds Bank | 9 1/2% |
| Midland Bank | 9 1/2% |
| Nat Westminster | 9 1/2% |
| Roseminster Accs | 9 1/2% |
| Shenley Trust | 14% |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2% |

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 5% up to £25,000, 5% over £25,000 6 1/2%.

MARKET REPORTS

COPPER—After heavy trading at the lower levels, copper prices rose sharply in the afternoon. The market was buoyant, with prices rising to new highs. The London Metal Exchange (LME) closed at 100.50 for the month of May, up from 98.50 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 101.00 for May, up from 99.00 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

SILVER—Silver prices were steady, with the LME closing at 15.50 for the month of May, up from 15.00 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 15.75 for May, up from 15.25 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

PLATINUM—Platinum prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1,250.00 for the month of May, up from 1,200.00 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1,275.00 for May, up from 1,225.00 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

RUBBER—Rubber prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

COFFEE—Coffee prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

TEA—Tea prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

WHEAT—Wheat prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

Commodities

US & STRAIGHTS—US & Straights prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

EUROBOND PRICES—Eurobond prices were steady, with the LME closing at 1.10 for the month of May, up from 1.05 in April. The New York market also rose, with the COMEX closing at 1.15 for May, up from 1.10 in April. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a shortage of supply and a strong demand from the industrial sector. Prices are expected to remain high in the near future.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

| US & STRAIGHTS | Bid | Offer | US & STRAIGHTS | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|--------|
| 100% 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Authorized Unit Trusts | Bid | Offer | Authorized Unit Trusts | Bid | Offer |
|------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|
| 100% 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 100% 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100% 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late Mr. John Smith, deceased, is being administered by the executor, Mr. John Smith, of the firm of Messrs. John Smith & Co., Solicitors, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4. All persons having claims against the estate are required to submit them to the executor by the 15th day of May 1977.

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Business Opportunities

BUSINESSMAN

Having extensive experience in the business world, I am seeking a partner for a new venture. The opportunity is ideal for someone with a strong background in business and a willingness to take on challenges. For more information, please contact me at 01-833 3311.

Properties under £25,000

THE MUMBLES

GOWER COAST

Property for sale in the Gower Coast area. The property is a large, detached house with a garden and a garage. It is located in a quiet residential area and is ideal for a family. For more information, please contact me at 01-833 3311.

EDUCATIONAL

G.C.E. DEGREE AND PROFESSIONAL

Examinations for G.C.E. Degree and Professional examinations. The examinations are held annually and are open to students who have completed their secondary education. For more information, please contact me at 01-833 3311.

Country property

Country property

Country property for sale in the Gower Coast area. The property is a large, detached house with a garden and a garage. It is located in a quiet residential area and is ideal for a family. For more information, please contact me at 01-833 3311.

SAUDI ARABIAN FAMILY

have need of an English teacher-nanny to accompany them with their 12 year old son for the months of July and August in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and September in the U.S.A. Preference will be given to a teacher between the ages 25-35 with capabilities in the field of teaching English. An appropriate salary will be negotiated according to qualifications. References essential. Please reply in writing to Miss V. Beggs, Adam Suite, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W.1.

WANTED

Nanny in Belgium

Over 30 years, non-smoker, for children, 12 years, 11 years and 10 years. Salary negotiable. References essential. Please reply in writing to Miss V. Beggs, Adam Suite, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W.1.

AU PAIR, HORSE GIRL

for little stud and dog breeding. Over 18 years. Driving licence and dressage experience preferred. Wanted at once. Pay negotiable. Write or phone Mr. Z. Bethmann, Rothenzander, 2331 Waabs, Northern Germany. Germany 04 352 2551.

TEHERAN

Excellent salary offered for responsible young lady aged 20-25 to take care of 12-year-old boy. Write or phone Mr. Z. Bethmann, Rothenzander, 2331 Waabs, Northern Germany. Germany 04 352 2551.

TEHERAN-NANNY

Required for two small children of Bank Director and wife. Good salary and accommodation. Interviews, London 19th & 19th April.

RELIABLE WOMAN OR COUPLE

Offered attractive part-time cottage. Suitable for a woman or couple. Good salary and accommodation. Interviews, London 19th & 19th April.

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Weekend



Sheila Black

If this is not the moment to clean carpets, because wet feet come tramping over them, it is undoubtedly the time to book carpet cleaning because the queues form soon and bookings run well into the summer. I always prefer the steam cleaning systems to wet cleaning although I know there are advocates of both.

The Yellow Pages yield several names in both categories, my own favourite being Cibenze. Prices are normally by the square yard—starting at £15—subject to a minimum sum. The carpet, I think, is dry sooner by the steam methods.

Cleaning is not cheap. But there are firms who will hire carpet cleaning equipment, such as Trexax, 157 Dunstable Road, Luton LU1 1BW (Luton 38040). Trexax first introduced their steam-cleaning machines to hire shops about a couple of years ago and pioneered this DIY system—building and home cleaning plant hire shops are again to be found in the Yellow Pages.

You get a large, heavy, box-like container which you plug into an electric socket to boil up water. But be warned, the boiling is a slow process. The hot water and the solvent are forced through a kind of vacuum-cleaner hose and a nozzle into the depths of the carpet, in a fine spray-mist so as not to soak it. Dirt and stains get flushed out, to be vacuumed away, and you are left with a moisture-extracted, surprisingly clean carpet. They say that about 90 per cent of the injected moisture will be gone when the job is done. Thus, depending on local conditions and temperature, to say nothing of a good air current, the carpet should be dry enough to walk on within the hour. There is no soap residue to trap more dirt, and no scrubbed look to the pile.

The actual cleaning time obviously varies, but a room of some 25 square yards will probably take a couple of hours. The cost, which varies according to how long you hire, whether you collect, and other factors, should be only about one third of the professional cleaning contract, and some people reckon to have done it at quarter of the price. The hire shops are everywhere and Trexax can tell you about your local ones.

Many cleaning firms and branches hire out electric Hoover carpet shampoo machines for about 80p a day and you might use these with Shampooal, the cleaning solution made by the Sterling hygiene products group—you would need a £1.60 bottle. Personally, I think the results are unpredictable but it is cheap. Details from Sterling Homecare, Sterling-Winthrop House, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PH.

Finally, whether it is carpets or curtains, upholstery or similar, I can only repeat the advice you got in our spring cleaning article two Saturdays ago. Look up your local Service-master for on-site work or write to head office at 3 Hammersmith Road, London, W14.

When it comes to doing something about the décor, cost can be just as prohibitive as for carpet cleaning. An easy way to dress up a room without repainting the entire place is to paper one wall with a strong, decorated paper. For me, this would never work because my rooms are so full of colour in furnishings, paintings, cushions and other accessories that my walls have to be white, and the paint comes from Woolworths for whom it is made by a first-class "family" business which still respects quality. I gloss the living room, stairs and corridors or anywhere that can be rubbed or scuffed. The criticism that imperfections in the plaster show up do not worry me. For one thing I expect imperfections in plaster. For another, I prefer clean, easily-washable walls and I do not accept that all the matt paints wash as satis-

factorily. You can wipe them, almost wash them, it is true, but tidemarks are inevitable. Gloss paint not only wipes much more easily so that you can do far larger areas and there is less tidemark trouble.

Bedrooms are best with matt finishes. However, there are some lovely wallpapers about for those who do like them. When I had rather simpler rooms and furnishings, I used to love to put a scenic or trompe l'oeil pattern into alcoves, on a chimney breast, or along one more or less uninhabited wall without pictures and furniture. Such a luxury is rare except in houses with large rooms.

Laura Ashley papers are enchantingly pretty, although some larger, bolder patterns are also creeping into the range. There are shops in Bath, Shrewsbury, Oxford, Chester, Norwich, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Llandiloes Powys, as well as in

Sloane Street and Lower Sloane Street, London. Leaflets showing the papers in room settings from Carno, Powys, Wales.

Fabrics match or coordinate. Pick up the basic colour of a paper with a plain fabric or keep to the same pattern for the whole run of a windowed wall. Laura Ashley hopes to open in Cheltenham and Nottingham this summer.

For larger, scenic or semi-scenic patterns and splashy prints, look at the patterns of Mayfair Wallcoverings. This division of Commercial Plastics has ready-pasted vinyls with tough surfaces that wash down well. Prices are about £4 a roll. The new collection is called Summertime and it can be seen in most decorating departments. Head office is at Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London, W1.

Surely nobody needs reminding of the lovely Sanderson

showroom in London's Berners Street where coordination of fabrics and papers is taken to the nth degree and where the wide choice makes the final decision difficult. Here you can also choose carpets and lighting, curtain tracks, tapes, blinds and all that goes to dress up any room. It is a wonderful

shop window—you can order or buy your choice at your favourite local shop or store—and the service is good. In the special advisory studio you can study the pros and cons, as well as the aesthetics, of wallcoverings in silk, cork, suede, grass-cloth and the like. You can, if the budget allows, even order

handprinted William Morris wallpapers and choose your own colourings. And you can buy old prints and modern paintings if, by the time you get to the gallery, you have allowed yourself to leave any walls plain enough to set them off. It is open from 9.30 to 5.30 from Monday to Friday and until 7 pm on Thursdays. There are several ranges—not just Crown and Sanderson. The address is 52 Berners Street, London, W1.

Habitat is the place to go for colours in paint that you will not find anywhere else. Their decorating departments are advisory centres in themselves and not to be missed by anyone on the hunt for originality. Talking of originality, it is worth visiting Zarach at 183 Sloane Street, London SW1 for that. But only if you are ready to spend as much as £18.50 a yard on printed cottons or £40 or £50 for painted panels to coordinate with the fabrics. A real feast for the eyes, of vegetables, fruit, flowers and

more abstract designs, wait for you. Gorgeous, original, tempting as is the rest of their furniture—and exclusive but, I repeat, expensive.

I loathe net curtains. Obviously some windows must have them but I avoid them where I can. My own bedroom, with sliding patio doors on to a tiny vegetable garden, has thin printed cotton with enormous flowers on it. They let in plenty of light and I have also a rooftop, a plastic dome above a dais of plants, and a Velux double-glazed window in the sloping roof opposite the main window. I do not happen to need a dark room to sleep so the lightness does not bother me, but I have solved the problem, in spare bedrooms, by having dark curtains with plain white roller blinds to roll down for dressing in the daytime. You can buy plain blinds anywhere but I do heartily recommend Rehman Blinds, which operate a "mail order" system. They are excellent value, highly efficient, and have some very pretty patterns by Mary Quant

including a plain blind with a lovely floral border along the bottom. They supply the blinds on a seven-day free trial basis and you then send a cheque if satisfied. I was. The address is Ashridge Road, Chesham, Bucks for patterns.

Having declared a preference for unscreened windows, I must admit that there were some pretty ideas to be gathered from a recent exhibition by ICI in conjunction with the Rufflete tape people for Terylene nets. They teamed polka dots with patterned sheeting to make light curtains for bedrooms. But it was not the fabric that counted so much as the tapes which gave the curtains pleated or draped effects. There is some superb striped sheeting at John Lewis shops. It transforms windows or beds to remind one of the more cheerful deckchairs or garden furniture; these are vivid and cool for summer bedrooms or children's rooms. The sheeting is polyester cotton for crease resistance and costs £295 a metre (228 centimetres wide). Plain sheeting is also available for mix and match effects at £275 a metre for deep colours. The blue, red and green stripes can be thick, thin or a mixture of both and I like them against the dark colours although plain, pastel sheeting is available at £245 a metre.

For thin, printed cottons you can rarely beat Heals—the tragedy is that photographs do no justice to their lovely colourings. The 1977 collection has a lovely spring pattern called "Fieldfare" with blowing corn and a hint of poppies. "Linear" is a striped print in five colourways while "Tuscany" is a landscape redolent of that region. Rafia is a first-class idea for plain colours because it looks like the rough surface of raffia. A difficult one to hang is Identity but it would enthrall a teenager since it is a design of fingerprints. "Hillside" offers warm stripes. Ikebana is cool and Japanese. "Flowerfall" is frankly gay. Local stockists from Heals Fabrics, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1A 1BJ.

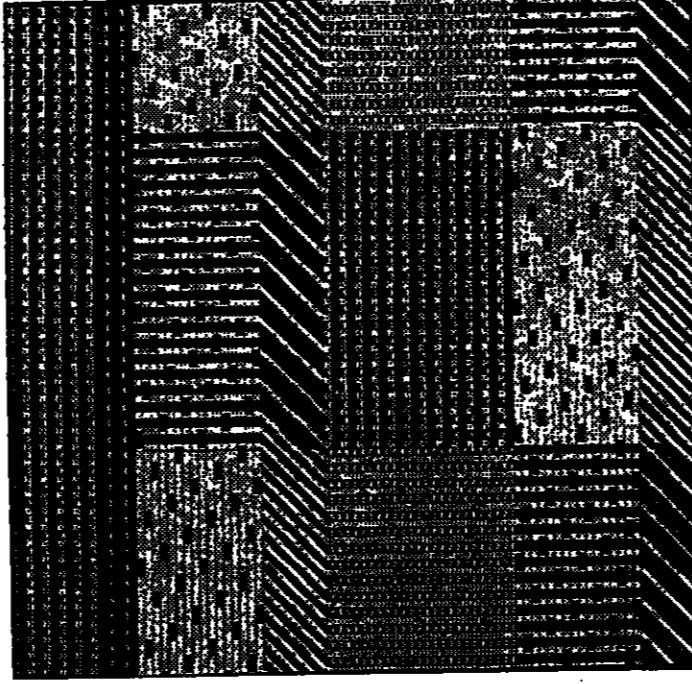
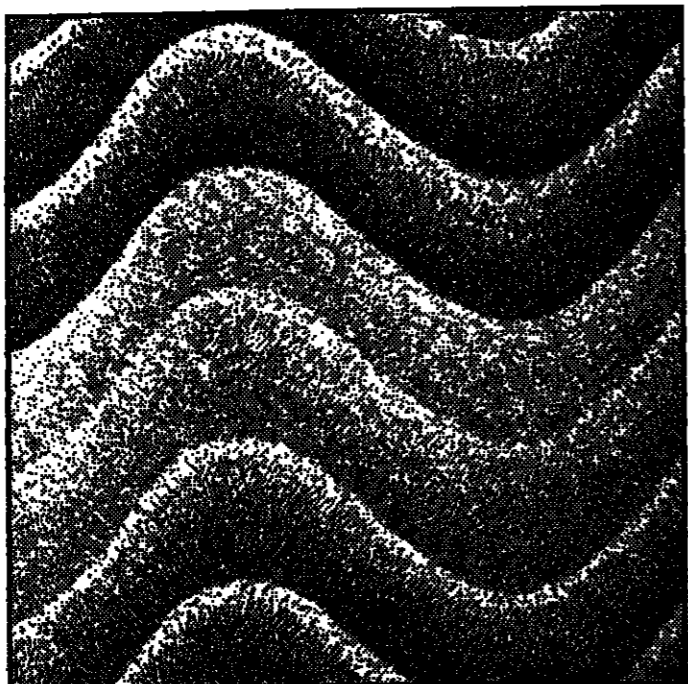
If you want enchanting, traditional hints go to Colefax and Fowler's Chintz Shop, 149 Ebury Street, London SW1. Lovely old patterns slightly changed and reprinted for modern or reproduction windows are here in profusion.

The last way to redecorate the bedroom and to get a new, springtime feeling is to change the sheets, bedspread and/or duvet cover. Dorma has some new beauties, with drama or with delicacy—well stocked everywhere and by mail from a highly recommended company called Helios Home Supplies, 400 Marlborough Road, Cheshire. Dry Maresh has a disciplined if oriental effect, or Jupiter, an evolution from the famous Satura design, for drama. Atlantis, a Mary Quant pattern, is scrappy again, in time with the sheets that abound this year. Helios also has a handsome towel, exclusive to itself, with a Grecian theme on the borders, as well as some pretty tablecloths, Pringle knitwear and suchlike. They stock Osmae quilts, duvet covers and bedspreads and I think anyone would be attracted by Primavera and Italian garden colours. Your local Dorma stockist will probably have their Bedroom 1977 book, which costs 20p, but which shows a wide range. A breakfast in bed series of photographs gives some amusing ideas for breakfasts for special occasions—but I wish they had realized that caviar must be kept in a refrigerator or at least an icy border and not in a cupboard. Bedroom is published by Dorma at PO Box 7, Lees Street, Swinton, Manchester—remember the 20p.

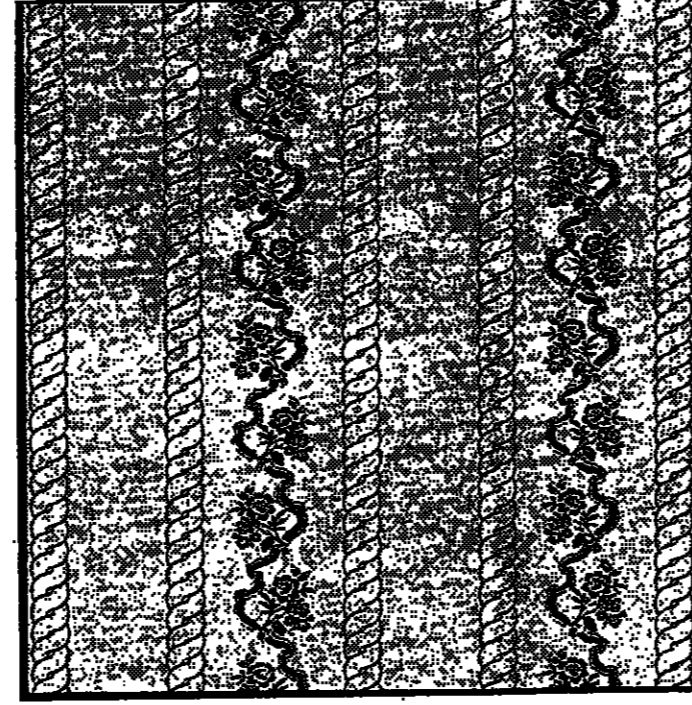
Vantona has a really feminine, really pretty-posy design, surprisingly by Harry Amies whose taste generally runs to the classic but who obviously has different ideas about bedrooms.

Horrockses new "Wamsutta" range is in percale, a fine-grade fabric of Terylene and cotton which has more threads to the square inch than ordinary sheetings, and which has a nice smooth feel to it. The Dior Rose pattern has a few long stemmed roses which are a cool, clean change from the usual profusion and there are towels to match. I do not like, but teenagers just might like, Sweet Denim Blues, a kind of patchwork denim effect. Watteau Rose would suit the traditional approach. Stockists, of which there are many, from Horrockses, Centenary Mill, New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire.

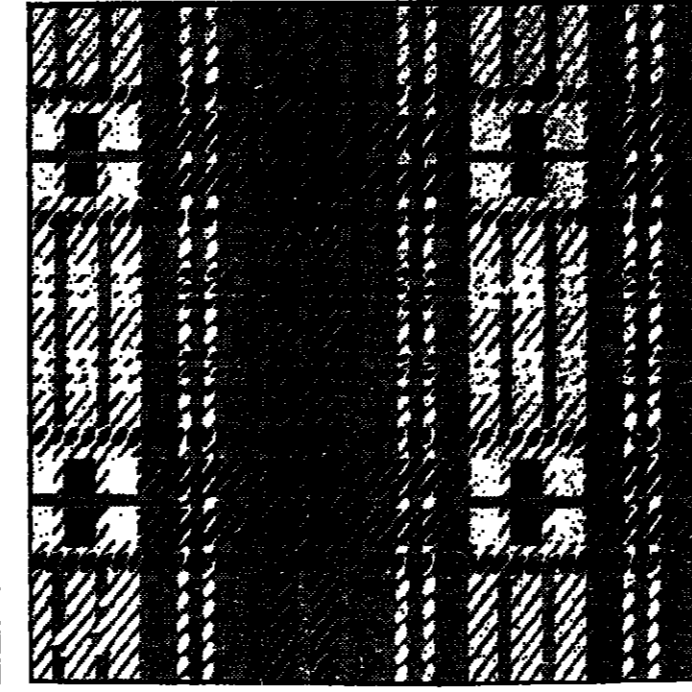
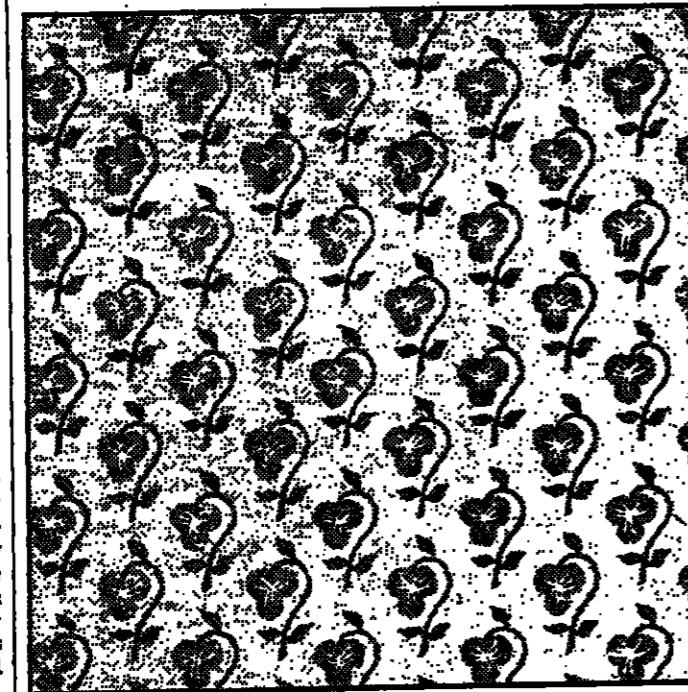
Heals Fabrics



Laura Ashley Papers



Osborne and Little Papers



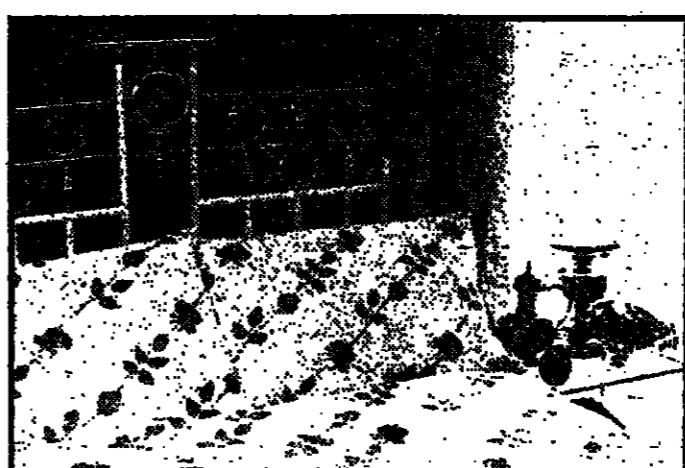
Horrockses



Dakota Forest



Sweet Denim Blue



Dior Rose

Don't go round the bend choosing!



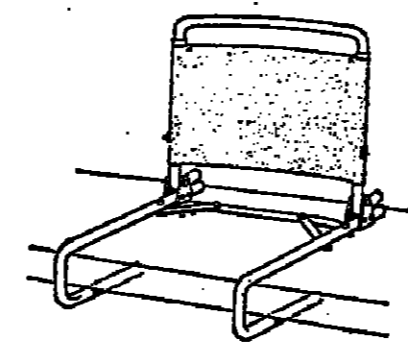
I keep reading statistics about backache and how many people of all ages suffer from it—I am currently trying out a backrest for car drivers on which I will report after a really long drive. It was therefore with some interest that I tried the Zanetta backrest.

This is a very lightweight, compact, folding chairback which transforms a plain bench or form into a chair. The thickness of the bench should not be more than two inches but then it hardly ever is. A curved metal stay, packed separately to keep the carrying pack flat, is wedged into the tubular, metal uprights to hold the vinyl rigid across the back. Great for those hours at cricket or Wimbledon.

Zanetta makes all the difference to watching a wide variety of spectator sports. I fear that by

some football spectators it could be regarded as just another object to throw. However, I like to think that no such hooligans read this page. I wish that players' scores could be penalized for the damage football hooligans do to lives and to the sport.

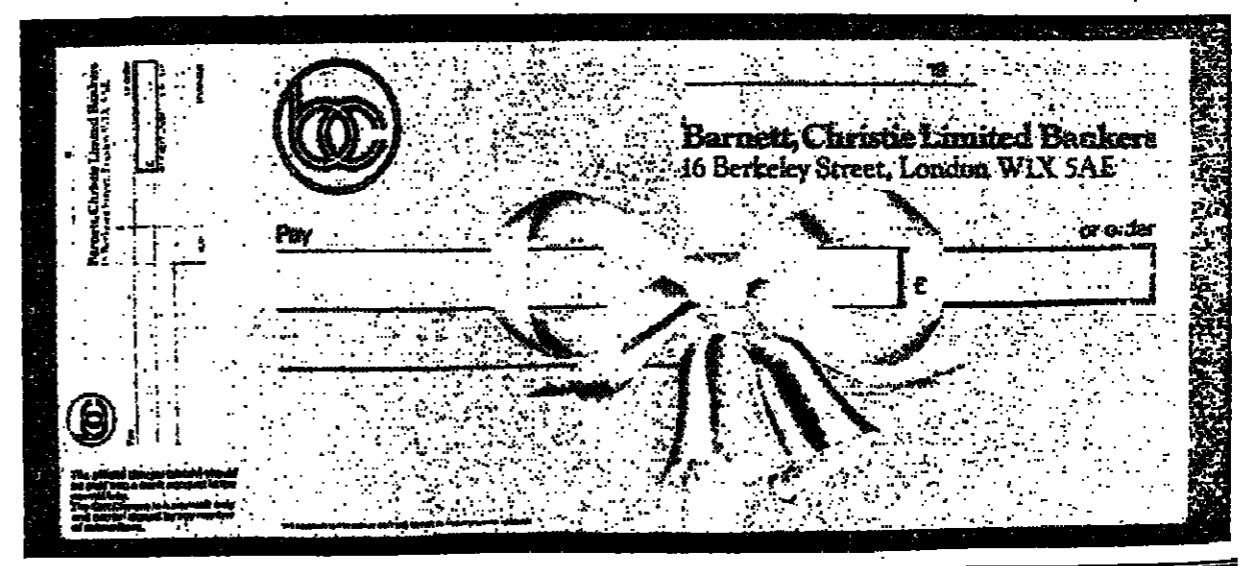
But back to the Zanetta; it weighs a mere kilo, is reliable and a very good idea. The price is £4.80 direct from the Zanetta Company, Trafalgar Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk.



Give money and you give something that everybody wants these days. But, let's face it, such a boring gift. Now there is a giant cheque, a pink or blue cheque, which does make a financial gift rather more intriguing and which might make the additional cost of 50p worthwhile.

The jumbo cheque is 15in long by 7in wide.

Attached to it is an actual cheque of normal size to pay in. The souvenir cheque itself can be signed by any number of subscribers. There are moves to make the cheques widely available at stationers and greeting card shops. For the time being it costs 50p by post from Barnett, Christie, 16 Berkeley Street, London W1X 5AE.



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